

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

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INSIDE

LOCAL



Mount Carmel School names Shirley Dueñas its Teacher of the Year.

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FOCUS



The growing gap between the very rich and everyone else has galvanized attention.

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LIFE & STYLE



Macklemore says Kendrick Lamar was 'robbed' at the Grammys.

► PAGE 20

RAIN OR SHINE

Tourists walk up the stairs of the historic and picturesque Banzai Cliff in Marpi yesterday as the rains of the past days temporarily gave way to sunshine. Tourist arrivals to the CNMI have generally been increasing the past two years except for some months, including December 2013 when they reached only 38,152, a 3-percent drop from 39,272 in December 2012. Hotel occupancy for December 2013, however, went up by 2 percent compared to the same month of the previous year.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Sen. Hocog's cop son nabbed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Sources: One of 2 SUVs used in deals is leased to senator's office

Kim-Tenorio imposed a \$100,000 cash bail for Hocog's temporary release. She ordered him to surrender his Department of Public Safety-issued firearm and passport.

Police arrested on Monday Sen. Victor Hocog's (R-Rota) police officer son for allegedly selling methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan.

Police Officer 1 Victor Val B. Hocog, 39, was taken before Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio yesterday for a bail hearing on charges of trafficking of a controlled substance and illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Citing the nature of the charges, the judge told Hocog it is "kind of shameful" since police officers are sworn to uphold the law and protect the community.

Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer was appointed to represent Hocog.

Drug Enforcement Task Force detective Jeffrey I. Norita stated in his report that members of the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force and Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force staged a sting operation against Hocog last Saturday.

See HOCOG on Page 4

Lawmakers take turns excoriating CUC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

At least three members of the Legislature, including the chairmen of both the House and Senate public utilities committees, are dissatisfied with the performance of Commonwealth Utilities Corp. management, which they claim continues to engage in questionable contracts and unnecessary purchases at the expense of ratepayers.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz, who appeared at the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission hearing on Monday, questioned CUC's judgment when it re-

cently purchased new vehicles that he described as non fuel-efficient, costing the agency substantial "unnecessary expenses."

He also questioned the alleged relocation of a group of employees to a rental space in Oleai that costs the cash-strapped CUC some \$10,000 rentals, as well as the installation of a modern security system for the management office and a bathroom for its executive director.

Dela Cruz also disagreed with CUC contracting a private company to perform call center services for the agency.

See LAWMAKERS on Page 4

99-year lease of 'private' lands pushed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Even as the House of Representatives has yet to act on a nine-month-old legislative initiative to extend "public land" leases from the maximum 40 years to 99 years, a new Senate initiative also seeks constitutional change to extend "private land" leases from 55 years to 99 years.

» Full House yet to take up 99-year lease of 'public' lands

Sen. Paul Manglona's (Ind-Rota) Senate Legislative Initiative 18-2 also seeks constitutional change on the definition of "corporations" to allow minority interests by persons not of Northern Marianas descent.

Under the Senate initiative, a corporation may be considered an NMD person so long as 51 percent of its shares or ownership interests are held by per-

sons of NMDs.

Manglona's initiative seeks to amend Article 12 Sections 3 and 5 of the NMI Constitution. Article 12 limits ownership of private lands to persons of Northern Marianas descent.

Section 3 of Article 12 allows lease of private lands by non-NMDs only by up to 55 years.

Manglona said increasing the maximum number of years for non-NMDs to lease private lands to

See LANDS on Page 4

CW PITFALLS: Traps for the unwary

By MAYA KARA and BRUCE MAILMAN
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Many clients have come to us lately regarding problems with CW renewals. A lot of people are suffering serious—and unnecessary—difficulties resulting from what might seem like minor errors in handling those renewals. Here's some tips on how to do it right and how not to do it wrong, and how to avoid the pitfalls associated with some common situations.

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\$1M in Managaha landing fee for land compensation, museum. PAGE 5

Local

Public schools incur \$1.7M budget overrun in FY 2013

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Public schools recorded a bud-

get overrun totaling \$1.7 million in fiscal year 2013, according to Public School System finance director Derek Sasamoto.

He blamed the shortfall mainly on the high cost of utilities assessed public schools.

Fiscal year 2013 covers the

period of September 2012 through Oct. 1, 2013.

PSS had a total budget of \$31 million for that period.

The system was budgeted at \$26.7 million for personnel costs but it actually spent \$27.081 million, resulting in a shortfall of \$330,000.

Its budget for operations and all others was at \$2.036 million. However, its operational expenditures totaled \$2.271 million, resulting in a shortfall of \$234,000.

Also in fiscal year 2013, PSS was allocated only \$2.2 million for its utilities. In that 12-month period, the system actually incurred \$3.7 million—an overrun of over \$1.4 million.

Because of this, Sasamoto said, PSS' total shortfall in fiscal year 2013 amounted to \$1.7 million.

Public schools, prior to the passage of Public Law 18-19, were charged government rates for water and wastewater. The law enacted in September last year now allows public schools to pay under the lower commercial water and wastewater rates.

Sasamoto also disclosed that toward the end of fiscal year 2013, the CNMI government transmitted supplemental funding of \$160,000 for PSS. However, this amount was dedicated equally to CUC costs and school operations.

Sasamoto earlier disclosed

See PUBLIC on Next Page

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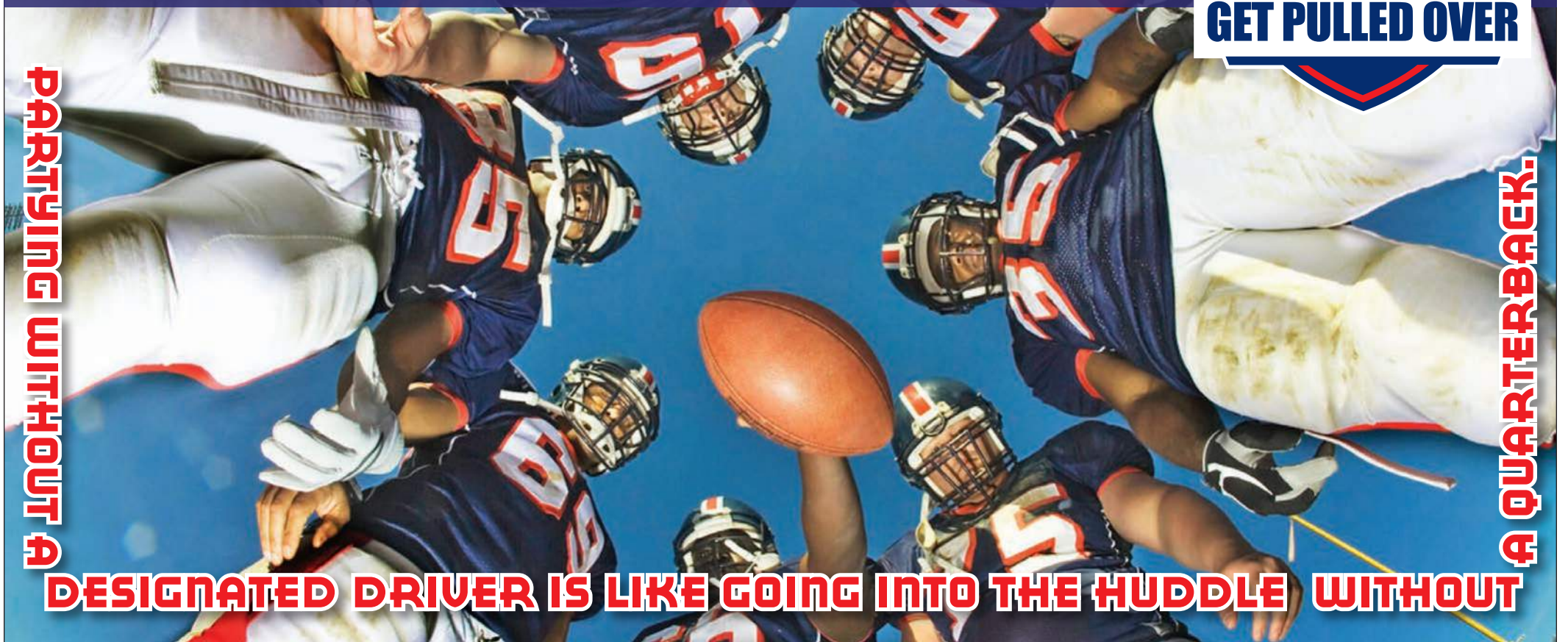
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Public hearings on resolution opposing Pagan militarization

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday that public hearings will be held on a joint resolution asking Gov. Eloy S. Inos not only "to oppose any and all" proposed U.S. military use of Pagan, but also "to oppose any increased military activities in

the Northern Islands."

"The resolution would be referred to a committee, most probably the Federal and Foreign Affairs Committee. Part of the process is the public hearings, to get public comments on the resolution," Deleon Guerrero, main author of the joint resolution, told *Saipan Tribune*.

The joint resolution will be formally introduced on Friday

during a tentatively set session at 9:30am.

"Pagan is a pristine, beautiful island. It should not be destroyed by military bombings," Rep. Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan), one of the co-sponsors of the joint resolution, said yesterday.

Once adopted by both the House and Senate, the joint resolution becomes the CNMI Legis-

lature's unified voice against the militarization of Pagan.

This comes at a time when Gov. Eloy S. Inos, along with Guam Gov. Eddie B. Calvo, is in Hawaii at the invitation of the U.S. Pacific Command for a briefing on the military's plans in the region, among other things.

Deleon Guerrero said he would like to learn from the governor the results of the brief-

ing in Hawaii upon his return from Hawaii.

Last week, the governor said he will not support artillery ranges on Pagan and Tinian for safety reasons, adding that Pagan alone is an "uphill battle." It was the governor's strongest statement to date on the military plans for both islands.

In the House joint resolution co-sponsored by most House

members, lawmakers described the proposed Pagan use as "basically a military war game plan that demands continuous use and occupation of the entire island of Pagan for warfare functional areas."

"The CNMI has legitimate concerns that certain proposed military operations on Pagan will adversely affect the socio-economic and other cultural concerns, including but not limited to geo-tourism, geothermal power generation, and planned resettlement," the joint resolution partly reads.

Given the significant land, ocean, and airspace that the military has already taken into custody and control for national defense, the 18th CNMI Legislature "opposes the military's proposed Pagan plan for combined-unit live fire trainings and maneuvers," the resolution reads.

San Nicolas: Neal's reassignment is part of ongoing OAG reorganization

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas disclosed yesterday that Chief Prosecutor Shelli Neal will be re-assigned to the Office of the Attorney General's Civil Division as part of the OAG's ongoing restructuring and reorganization.

In a news briefing, San Nicolas said that Neal will remain chief prosecutor of the OAG's Criminal Division until Monday, Feb. 3.

San Nicolas did not say what specific assignments will be given to Neal at the OAG's Civil Division.

He said he will soon announce who will be the new chief prosecutor, and that at a later date he will also name an interim chief prosecutor and interim first assistant.

"Ms. Neal is a committed, hardworking prosecutor. I value Ms. Neal's experience and her strong background in the prosecution field. She will be a great asset to the Civil Division and we look forward to her move there," San Nicolas said.

It was San Nicolas who appointed Neal as chief prosecutor in April 2013. The then-chief prosecutor, Peter Prestley, was reassigned to the OAG's Civil Division.

San Nicolas disclosed that they commissioned the Guam's Office of the Attorney General to evaluate and assess the CNMI's OAG.

He said that based on the assessments and evaluation of a team of officials from the Guam

OAG that was on island recently, recommendations were laid down on how to move forward with the restructuring and reorganization.

San Nicolas said the next step is Neal's reassignment to the Civil Division.

At a hearing last November, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho expressed concern that the OAG's Criminal Division needs to be "fixed" when the prosecution moved to dismiss a burglary case against a habitual offender three days before the start of the jury trial.

San Nicolas also revealed that a series of changes will be forthcoming in anticipation of the upcoming November general election that will result in the first ever elected AG.

He said he has taken the initiative to restructure and reorganize OAG for a smooth transition to an elected AG, who will take office in 2015.

San Nicolas began the restructuring at the Civil Division when he appointed Gilbert Birnrich as chief of that division. In addition, he assigned additional responsibilities to Carla Torres, who currently handles grants, as the OAG's public information officer.



Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas explains the reassignment of Chief Prosecutor Shelli Neal to the Office of the Attorney General's Civil Division as OAG Civil Division chief Gilbert Birnrich listens during a press conference yesterday.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

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PUBLIC

From Page 2

that for the first quarter of the current fiscal year, the system is incurring a shortfall due to delayed allotments from the Finance Department. As of Jan. 17, 2014, the unremitted allotments for schools amount to \$2.2 million.

PSS was promised a weekly allotment of \$616,136.

Sasamoto said that PSS has no choice but to age its receivables and cut its daily expenses to cope with the budget shortfall. He said some reimbursements also helped the system's cash flow situation.

This fiscal year 2014, PSS has been allocated a budget of \$33.039 million.

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'HK fugitive bribed bank official with HK\$2.3M'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Alleged Hong Kong fugitive Wei Zeng is a businessman who bribed a bank official in Hong Kong with a bag filled with money equivalent to \$300,000, according to court documents filed in federal court.

As this developed, federal agents served Zeng with an arrest warrant on Monday.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued the arrest warrant on Friday shortly after the U.S. government filed a complaint for provisional arrest with a view toward extraditing the 51-year-old Zeng, a Chinese national. He is also known as Zhi Qian Liu.

In the complaint, assistant U.S. attorney Jessica F. Cruz disclosed that Zeng is a businessman with majority of his

businesses in mainland China.

Cruz said the businessman was the major shareholder-cum-director of United Win Holdings Ltd., which was principally engaged in developing properties and operating hotels and golf courses via its subsidiaries or affiliated companies.

Zeng also operated other companies, including Kostar Investments Limited and Shine City International Limited, of which he was a director.

From 2006 to 2007, Zenge allegedly applied for three separate loans with the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (Asia) Ltd., for HK\$65 million, HK\$200 million, and HK\$200 million for Kostar and Shine City, with United Win Holdings Limited as the guarantor. All three loans were approved.

At the time, Derick Po-fui Chan was the head of ICBC's

Corporate Banking Department and was responsible for handling loan applications. He endorsed a favorable credit proposal recommending all three loans to the management of ICBC for approval.

After those loans were granted to Kostar and Shine City, Zeng subsequently applied for extending the repayment due dates of the two loans for Kostar on six occasions between 2007 and 2009. Chan endorsed four of the applications. Five of the applications were approved by the ICBC management.

In May 2009, Zeng also applied for deferring the repayment due date of the loan for Shine City. Chan endorsed the application and the ICBC management approved the application.

On Sept. 25, 2008, Zeng gave Chan a Nokia mobile phone worth about HK\$3,700 as re-

ward for his help.

On Oct. 5, 2010, Zeng and Chan met at a coffee shop of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Hong Kong. After chatting for a while, the two went to the hotel's lavatory where Zeng allegedly gave Chan a bag containing HK\$2.3 million cash, equivalent to US\$300,000, reportedly as a reward for his help in the extension applications and for giving a favorable credit information relating to Kostar and Shine City.

Shortly after Chan accepted the money, officers of the Independent Commission Against Corruption arrested the two at the scene.

Zeng was charged with three counts of offering an advantage to an agent and conspiracy to deal with property known or believed to represent proceeds of an indictable offense.

On July 4, 2011, Deputy District Judge Sham of the Hong Kong District Court issued a

warrant for Zeng's arrest on the basis of the alleged bribery.

Assistant U.S. attorney Cruz said that, in accordance with Article 10 of the extradition treaty, the Hong Kong government has asked the U.S. for the provisional arrest of Zeng with a view toward his extradition.

Zeng's initial appearance in federal court was set for yesterday.

Last week, Judge Manglona ordered Zeng's continued de-

tention pending trial.

Zeng was recently arrested when he reportedly used a different identity to try to enter Saipan. He arrived on Saipan from Shanghai, China and sought admission to the CNMI using the name Zhi Qian Liu. He also allegedly lied that he has not previously applied for a U.S. immigrant or non-immigrant visa.

Court-appointed attorney Bruce Berline is counsel for Zeng.

OAG says Woodruff does not deserve \$400K attorney's fees

The Office of the Attorney General is opposing Betty Johnson's counsel Bronster Hoshibata law firm's recommendation to award Johnson's local counsel, Stephen Woodruff, \$400,000 in attorney's fees and costs.

In the CNMI government's opposition, assistant attorney general Teresita J. Sablan said that, as with Woodruff's opinion that he spent at least 300 hours on this case, the court should not accept Bronster's "unsupported opinion" that Woodruff deserves \$400,000.

Sablan said the court has given Woodruff chance after chance to file documents that justify his requested attorney's fees and he has failed to provide full justification each time.

The government lawyer said that under the Johnson settlement agreement, Woodruff is entitled "to reasonable fees" as approved by the court.

She pointed out that the lawyer's reasonable fee award is his lodestar amount of 139.7 hours multiplied by an hourly rate that the court determines is commensurate with his skill and reputation.

"A multiplier is not justified because Mr. Woodruff played a minimal role in the case," Sablan noted.

Attorney Margery Bronster recommended awarding Woodruff \$400,000 for his work in the case.

Woodruff is asking for \$2.9 million. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

LANDS

From Page 1

99 years "will encourage more investment while maintaining the ultimate objective of Article 12 to protect a limited amount of land for the inhabitants of the Northern Mariana Islands."

As of yesterday afternoon, the initiative has yet to be assigned to any Senate committee.

Manglona said the language of Article 12's Section 3 also creates confusion among investors who seek to extend a leasehold interest with a lessor.

"Property owners should be free to contract their interests and shall be free to contract for valuable consideration if they so choose. However, all change of law clauses in existing leases shall be invalid. Extension of leases shall only occur with new valuable, as opposed to nominal, consideration," Manglona said.

Section 5 of Article 12, meanwhile, says a corporation is con-

sidered a person of NMD if it is owned 100 percent by NMD persons.

"We agree with the purpose of this limitation, but believe the same ends can be met my providing that a corporation may be considered a person of Northern Marianas descent so long as 51 percent of its shares or ownership interests are held by persons of Northern Marianas descent," the initiative says.

If the Senate and House pass Manglona's SLI 18-2, it will be placed on the ballot for voters' ratification in the November 2014 elections.

While Manglona would have liked to repeal Article 12 in its entirety as he had proposed in the 17th Legislature, it didn't get other senators' support at the time. Senators at the time, however, said they're open to the idea of making amendments to some of Article 12's provisions but not to repeal it in its entirety, and that's what Manglona is now trying to do.

In 2012, when Manglona was

Senate president of the 17th Legislature, he was the only one that voted "yes" to his initiative to place the question of Article 12 repeal on the ballot.

Public land leases

Meanwhile, the House Natural Resources Committee recommended in November last year that the full House membership decide on House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero's (Ind-Saipan) initiative to increase the CNMI's maximum 40-year lease term on public lands to 99 years.

The panel said the issues remains controversial and highly divisive.

Yesterday, the speaker said House Legislative Initiative 18-5 remains on calendar. The speaker has tentatively scheduled a Friday morning session.

House members continue to weigh changing the Article 11 Section 5 (c) provision, even as at least three major hotels in the CNMI have less than 10 years left on their public

land leases: global brand Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan, Marianas Resort & Spa in Marpi, and Fiesta Resort & Spa, also in Garapan.

Article 11 of the NMI Constitution partly states that public lands "may not transfer a leasehold interest in public lands that exceeds 25 years including renewal rights. An extension of not more than 15 years may be given upon approval by three-fourths of the members of the Legislature."

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the largest business group in the CNMI with some 160 members, supports an extended maximum land lease term.

In the November elections, there is at least one Article 12 initiative that is up for voters' ratification. This one allows any U.S. citizen with "at least some degree" of Chamorro or Carolinian blood to be considered a person of Northern Marianas descent who can own land in the CNMI.

LAWMAKERS

From Page 1

"With these, maybe we should ask CUC what cost-cutting measures it has been doing. They extended the Dandan office and begun renting another office [in Oleai], they contracted out its call center to a private company, and even purchased automobiles that are not efficient. It appears to me that CUC has done nothing to reduce its operating costs," said Dela Cruz during the public comment period of the CPUC hearing.

CUC executive director Alan Fletcher has yet to respond to *Saipan Tribune* for comments on these allegations.

Dela Cruz is also puzzled why the government, through the Public Works Department, did not realize an estimated up to 70 percent savings for using LED bulbs for public streetlights.

"Using ARRA monies, we installed a lot of these LEDs a year ago. But we never realized that 60- to 70-percent efficiency," he said.

House Public Utilities Committee chair Rep. Larry Guerrero also lambasted CUC for what he described as "schemes" within the organization. He specifically cited the agency's continued hiring, accusing it of losing its sense of priority for its customers.

"CUC kicked out people [from the third floor of its Dandan office] so its management can enjoy the entire floor, equipped with a modern security system, a new bathroom for its executive director while allowing CUC to rent another space in Oleai," said the lawmaker.

According to Guerrero, CUC—on several occasions—cited numerous "savings" it can generate from specific actions such as the buyout of the PMIC

contract and other measures.

"But where are these savings going?" he asked, adding that there are other ways for CUC to raise its revenue requirements rather than hiking customers' charges.

CUC earlier filed a collection lawsuit against the central government, public schools, and hospital to collect nearly \$20 million in unpaid obligations. Guerrero said he was surprised when the Commonwealth Ports Authority, which also owes CUC, was excluded from the case.

"Fortunately, CPA may have struck a sweet deal with CUC because obviously, it was not part of the collection lawsuit," Guerrero said.

Sen. Pete Reyes, who chairs the Senate Public Utilities Committee, said it is disturbing to know that CUC—despite promises of efficient service—remains nonresponsive to customers' needs.

The lawmaker cited his two-

hour experience in line to pay his monthly bill. Only two—out of four cashier's windows—were open to accommodate the long line of customers, he said.

"We're talking about revenue for CUC that could have been collected on that day," he said.

A member of the public, Patrick Leon Guerrero, also aired his frustrations with CUC's performance. He cited the unnecessary hiring of another attorney for CUC in addition to its current legal counsel, the agency's continued neglect of local laws such as Public Law 18-19, and confusing information about the PMIC buyout, among other issues.

CPUC chair Joseph Guerrero assured the public that the commission is not taking the issues raised by the public lightly.

"Anytime we get public comments, we hear them and we don't ignore them. Everything we hear, we discuss among ourselves and our consultant," he said.

HOCOG

From Page 1

day and Sunday.

Norita said that in the two transactions, Hocog handed over a total of \$100 worth of "ice" to the Task Force's cooperating source at a poker arcade in As Lito.

Norita disclosed that he and police detective Elias Q. Saralu talked with the cooperating source on Jan. 21 about a police officer who is allegedly active in selling "ice" on Saipan.

Norita said the police officer, who was known by the cooperating source as Val Hocog, was later identified as Police Officer Victor Val Hocog.

Norita said that in the first transaction on Saturday, Hocog used a brown SUV bearing a license plate AEG-871. On the second deal on Sunday, he was driving a blue SUV with license plate ACN-570.

Sources revealed that the brown SUV is leased to Sen. Hocog's office.

Assistant attorney general Barbara Cepeda recommended the \$100,000 cash bail due to the nature and circumstances of the case, that the suspect is a police officer, and that he has a prior conviction.

Cepeda said the firearm DPS issued to Hocog has yet to be found.

Cepeda said the two charges carry a total maximum penalty of 30 years in prison and \$12,000 in fine.

Hocog's prior conviction stems from a 2009 incident when he beat up his former girlfriend inside the office of Sen.

Paul Manglona at the legislative building on Capital Hill. He was charged with assault and battery, attempted kidnapping, kidnapping, and unlawful possession of a controlled substance. He later pleaded guilty to assault and battery as part of a plea deal. He was sentenced to one year in prison, all suspended except for nine days, with credit for the nine days he had already served in jail. He was then placed on one year probation.

DPS then hired Hocog back as Police Officer 1 last August. He is assigned at the Patrol Section, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, DPS Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero said that Hocog's arrest is part of the department's overall strategy to clean house.

"We don't allow drug dealers to penetrate our organization," Deleon Guerrero said.

As for Hocog's hiring, the commissioner said at the time there were two or three vacant positions at DPS and that four persons, including Hocog, applied.

Deleon Guerrero said that three applicants had prior convictions and the selection process committee selected Hocog and one who had a clean record.

Deleon Guerrero said that Hocog, who was convicted of assault and battery, came out as the "lesser evil" as the other applicant was convicted of theft.

The commissioner said this is one of the reasons why he has been pushing for mandatory drug testing for all law enforcers and to waive a police academy requirement in order to have a bigger pool of applicants.

\$1M in Managaha landing fee for land compensation, museum

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

The House Natural Resources Committee chaired by Rep. Antonio Benavente (Ind-Saipan) is proposing to appropriate \$1 million in Managaha Island landing fee to pay some landowners whose properties were taken by the government for public access roads, as well as to help renovate and maintain the NMI Museum of History and Culture, the roofs of which are now leaking, among other things.

Of the proposed \$1 million from the Managaha landing fees, \$900,000 is eyed for payment of land claims within Saipan under the expenditure authority of the Department of Public Lands secretary.

Benavente, in an interview, said that, while \$900,000 is a drop in the bucket—considering that the unpaid land compensations now stand at over \$100 million inclusive of the 3 percent annual compounding interest—“we need to start somewhere.”

Over 300 families on Saipan and Rota are still waiting for

government payment for their property taken for public uses such as to build roads, wetlands, and ponding basin. But the government had already paid at least 138 landowners a total of almost \$28.5 million, some for \$100,000 to \$4.4 million each.

In Benavente's proposal, the remaining \$100,000 in the \$1 million appropriation is proposed for the NMI Museum of History and Culture's renovation and upkeep, with the museum executive director as the expenditure authority.

This is also just a portion of the museum's funding request of \$376,810 to address short-term and long-term needs. The amount covers funding for the museum's urgent needs, equipment and personnel. The museum's current budget is only about a fourth of what it was at least six years ago, with personnel now down to two from up to nine at one time.

'Major leakages'

NMI Museum of History and Culture executive director Robert H. Hunter, in a Jan. 24 letter to

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), said the museum's most serious needs are structural repairs to address the leaking of water into the museum from the roof.

He said they also need to acquire adequate grounds and maintenance equipment.

Hunter said the leakage is caused by the settling of the new museum wing, which is seeing the separation of the old and new wings at the construction seam.

Secondary leaking, he said, is caused by small cracks and porous areas in the old hospital roof exposed due to the deterioration of the original coating sealant.

Further leaking is occurring around old central air-conditioning systems mounted on the roof that have caused stress cracks and whose conduits are entryways for water, Hunter added.

The estimate cost of the roof work will not exceed \$10,000, Hunter said, based on past discussions with private contractors.

“Any help that you can extend to seeing this immediate need addressed is greatly appreciated,” Hunter told Tebuteb.

Tebuteb is one of the five sponsors of the local bill helping to fund the museum and land compensations.

Benavente pre-filed House Lo-

cal Bill 18-45 on Friday, shortly after the meeting of the House Natural Resources Committee, whose members are also co-sponsors, including Tebuteb, Reps. Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan), Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan), and Richard Seman (R-Saipan).

Hunter said there are also a number of necessities that do not follow too far behind the roof leakage and grounds and maintenance equipment acquisitions. They include additional staffing, foundation repair, and collections storage.

Civil Service to Legislature: Govt's hiring policies, practices reviewed

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Prompted by a lawmaker's concern that non-qualified individuals are able to enter the government workforce, Civil Service Commission chair Herman R. Deleon Guerrero assured the Legislature that government hiring policies and practices are continuously being reviewed and adjusted to improve personnel efficiency and effectiveness.

Deleon Guerrero said the tasks ahead are very challenging but are currently being addressed.

“Ensuring that the government follows fair and non-discriminatory hiring practices is a major concern of OPM [Office of Personnel Management] and the Commission. I must point out, however, that the CNMI Constitution allows the offices of the governor, lieutenant governor, and each mayor to hire employees who are excepted from the Civil Service Rules and Regulations,” Deleon Guerrero said in a Jan. 24 letter to Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) and House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan).

Rep. Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday that his earlier statements raising concerns about unqualified individuals getting government jobs, including at the governor's office during the previous administration, is meant as a constructive criticism.

The commission chairman said he applauds the lawmaker's concerns and welcome lawmakers' desire to make government operations fair to all and effective for all.

“However, very often, these


concerns can be resolved or, at least, clarified for accuracy, by discussing the issue with the director of personnel or by bringing it to the attention of the Civil Service Commission. This will assist the [OPM] and the Civil Service Commission by making them aware of the Legislature's or their constituent's concerns and to ensure that the congressman or congresswoman has full and accurate information on the matter,” he told lawmakers.

In his three-page letter, De-

on Guerrero said the commission tasked OPM to review and prepare all CNMI employee grievances to include all pending files that go back as far as 2006.


This backlog resulted from a lengthy period of time when the commission lacked enough commissioners to function, he said.

“Available documents and records are being put together at this time to prepare for an investigation into each case to allow for their resolution,” Deleon Guerrero told lawmakers.



Marianas High School Parent Teacher Association

New Location!



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Wednesday January 29, 6:30pm

All MHS parents and teachers are invited to participate in a special PTA meeting!

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DURING HALFTIME, COURTESY OF TRIPLE J.





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For inquiries, call 237-4126 or 237-5104.

Winner of brush cutter can't wait to use it

The winner of the CarQuest raffle can't wait to use the brush cutter he won as part of the automotive parts and outdoor equipment store's promotion during the November/December issue of Saipan Super Saver.

"It's my first time ever to win something this big. I won before but only minor prizes like a \$20 gift certificate. I thank the Lord for giving me this brush cutter. He must have known I really need it. I haven't had a chance to use it because it's been raining but one of these days I will," said raffle winner Juan Aguon in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

He said he would be sharing the Echo SRM 2250 brush cutter with his family since he also used to borrow his relative's brush cutter before winning the \$896.59 equipment at the Chalan Kanoa store raffle.

Aguon said he bought a

transmission part for his Toyota pickup truck, which made him qualify for the CarQuest raffle.

He also thanked CarQuest owner Jim Ripple and Saipan Super Saver owners Aaron and Kayla Wood for organizing the raffle for the brush cutter.

Ripple said the raffle was just one way for CarQuest to thank the community for supporting his establishment. To further thank Saipan customers, he would be offering a 25-percent discount on all Echo equipment.

Kayla Wood congratulated Aguon as well for winning the brush cutter and thanked Ripple and CarQuest for agreeing to hold the raffle.

First published late last year, Saipan Super Saver is a couponing booklet that offers more than \$1,000 in savings from companies that range from restaurants and service outlets, to pharmacies and cupcake shops.

Among the companies that offer discounts and other promotions through coupons found on Saipan Super Saver are J's Restaurant, Wild Bill's, 360 Restaurant, Buttercups, Java Joe's, 3 Strands, Brabu Pharmacy, American Medical Center, Saipan Zoo, Marianas Country Club, The Athlete's Foot, and Girl Talk.

Saipan Super Saver is sold for \$2 a booklet at the following outlets: CarQuest, The Coffee Room N-106, Java Joe's, Naked Fish, Lollipops, and Mobil gas stations, among others.

For more information on Saipan Super Saver, call Kayla Wood at 235-2116, email info@woodventures.com, or find Saipan Super Saver on Facebook. *(Mark Rabago)*



MARK RABAGO

Saipan Super Saver owner Kayla Wood and a CarQuest staff member pose with the Echo SRM 2250 brush cutter won by Juan Aguon in the auto parts store's recent raffle.

CPUC assures CUC 'management audit'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission is seeking the Legislature's help in order to have full authority to go over any and all operational aspects of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

CPUC chair Joseph Guerrero disclosed that the commission has formally requested the Legislature to enact legislation that will amend the CPUC Act.

The commission's target: to perform a management audit on CUC's operations.

"We have recommended a bill to authorize CPUC to perform and engage in management audit. We're the only one among other commissioners that has no power to engage and use that audit [in making decision for an entity]," disclosed Guerrero.

He said the bill is now at the House committee level for review.

Guerrero explained that there are several types of audits, and the "management audit" will be an important tool for the commission when formulating orders.

The current law provides limited authority to the commission. *Saipan Tribune* learned that CPUC at present could only accept information as presented by CUC, specifically its num-

bers and figures.

"Right now, CPUC can recommend and suggest expenses for specific items, but we don't go out and research. Without this management audit, we're not operating like other commissions," said Guerrero.

He said the management audit will be done independently and could be challenged anytime by any entity. This, he said, must also be agreed to by CUC.

"We want to make sure they're performing at the peak. It is a tool for us and will be done independently," he said.

This revelation was welcomed by members of the public that attended Monday's regulatory hearing, with high hopes that concerns disclosed about alleged "mismanagement" at the utilities corporation will be addressed.

The CPUC is composed of three members: chair Guerrero and members Dave Guerrero and Oscar Quitugua.

On Monday, the regulatory body initially approved not only CUC's electric base rate proposal but also other recommendations, including the 36-month refund for residential users, select non-rate fees, and infrastructure surcharge, among others.

A final commission order is expected next week when the CPUC resumes its meeting.

High surf advisory until noon

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled by the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, a high surf advisory remains in effect for north facing reefs until noon today, Wednesday.

Hazardous surf of 7 to 9 feet will continue along north facing reefs then subside below hazardous levels to between 6 and 8 feet by late

Wednesday morning.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid boating in these conditions. If travel by boat is necessary, exercise caution especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving harbors and inlets. Avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north and northeast facing reefs as rip currents is life threatening. *(PR)*

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

CHINESE NEW YEAR DINNER BUFFET
JANUARY 30th
Regular price \$22

HOT ENTRÉE:
Fried Rice with Assorted Seafood
Steamed Fish with spring onions and ginger
Sautéed Chinese Green Vegetables
Sautéed King Prawns with dry chili pepper

COLD APPETIZER:
Five Spices Beef
Chilled Spicy Cucumber
Poached Chicken with spring onion and ginger sauce

HOT SOUP:
Fa Chai Crab Meat Soup

DESSERT:
Sesame Balls
Chinese Happy New Year Cake

Live cooking station, your favorite Kanoa selections, and more!

Kanoa Resort
Saipan

For reservations please call: 234-6601

Labor sanctions 2 companies

The Department of Labor has sanctioned two companies for failing to operate in good faith with respect to meeting the 30-percent requirement under CNMI law to employ U.S. citizens and permanent residents of workforce.

In separate administrative orders issued Monday, Labor administrative officer Jerry Cody sanctioned KN Corporation,

which owns Sherwood, and Juan A. Gacayan, who owns JAG Construction, to each pay a \$1,000 fine.

Cody ordered KN Corp. and Gacayan to contact James Ulloa of Labor's Citizen Job Availability and Job Placement Section within 30 days to devise a workforce plan toward meeting the so-called 30 percent requirement.

The hearing officer also urged

employers to consider all referrals received from Labor's Citizen Job Placement Section and hire these referrals when they are qualified and available to work.

He instructed the two employers to post all job vacancies and job renewals in the future on Labor's website.

With respect to KN Corp., Cody said the employer failed to contact Labor's Placement Section for further referrals of job applicants and for the next six months did not make any effort to recruit or hire U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

Furthermore, Cody said, the employer never posted its job listings on Labor's website.

In Gacayan's case, the admin-

istrative officer said the employer failed to contact Labor's Citizen Job Placement Section for further referrals of job applicants after a meeting in December 2013.

Cody said the employer never posted his available construction and commercial cleaning jobs on Labor's website in 2013.

Gacayan stated that in his efforts to find U.S. citizens for the positions held by his "CW" workers, he had placed an advertisement on a local radio station for a total of three days in May 2013.

Gacayan testified that his petition to hire five full-time CW workers was approved by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Chamber sets Feb. membership meeting

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce's next general membership meeting will be held on Feb. 5, 2014, at the Kanoa Resort's Seaside Hall. The luncheon begins at 11:30am and meeting starts at 12pm.

The meeting will feature two speakers.

Jim Arenovski of Island Training Solution's will introduce members of The Latte Training Academy, its partner in delivering certified hospitality training programs in the CNMI.

Representatives of the Department of Commerce and the Small

Business Development Center will discuss the Affordable Health Care Act and answer questions from members. In preparation for their presentation, Commerce and SBDC would like to request members to submit any questions you wish them to address by emailing Chamber administrator/planner Emi H. Agulto at coordinator@saipanchamber.com.

For reservations email Agulto or call the Chamber at (670) 233-7150.

Luncheon will cost \$20 for members \$30 for non-members and the public. *(SCC)*



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to Ruthian L. Olopai! May the good Lord bless you always and hope you enjoy your special day! Much love from Kailin.

Saipan Shrimp & Broodstock Co., Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following position:

Aquaculture Farmer

Job duties: Feeding and monitoring of live aquatic animals, cleaning of tanks, weighing of feeds, harvesting and packing, nighttime monitoring, grounds maintenance and other related jobs.

Job requirements: High school graduate, in good physical and health condition, able to lift up to 60lbs., knowledge of basic mathematical calculations. Must be willing to work night shifts, be a team player and with good working attitude.

Shrimp Hatchery Supervisor

Job duties: Planning and production of at least 500,000 shrimp larvae every month. Work involves shrimp broodstock selection, maturation and conditioning, breeding and larval rearing. The supervisor is also in charge in the scheduling and delegation of work to aquaculture farmers.

Job requirements: At least 2 years experience in actual L. vannamei hatchery operations. A degree in aquaculture or related field an advantage. Willing to be on call 24 hours. Good in oral and written communication and should be literate in MS Word and Excel spreadsheets.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at the Saipan Shrimp & Broodstock Co., Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Thursday, February 13, 2014.

Saipan Shrimp & Broodstock Co., Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.



NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a DCRM Agency Officials Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 30, 2014, at 10:00 A.M. at the DCRM Office located, Tekken Street, Susupe

AGENDA

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- Call to Order
- Roll Call

PERMIT APPLICATION

- SEA TOUCH, LLC - Sharks & Ray Marine Park CRM PERMIT NO. SMS-2013-X-070
- Permit Application Summary
- Discussion by CRM Agencies/CRMO
- Permit Application Status

OTHER MATTERS

ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/S/ FRANCES A. CASTRO
DIRECTOR, DCRM

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BID
(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2014 • TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2014-001

"The Expansion of the Division of Youth Services Shelter"

Proposal packets will be available on Wednesday, January 22, 2014, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by cash, credit card, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

A **mandatory pre-bid conference** will be held at **10:00 a.m.** on **Thursday, January 30, 2014**, at the NMHC Conference Room, Saipan.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

/s/ **Marcie M. Tomokane**
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ **Herman S. Sablan, Director**
Division of Procurement & Supply

POI Aviation invites qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Aircraft Service Agent (1)
High school diploma or its equivalent with 2 years experience working on aircraft interior and exterior cleaning.

Assistant Manager, Passenger Service (1)
Associate's degree with 6 years of progressive experience in airline passenger service. Minimum 3 years experience in passenger service supervisory capacity.

Lead Cargo Agent (2)
High school diploma or its equivalent with 4 years experience as a cargo handler.

Manager, Aircraft Maintenance & GSE (1)
Associate's degree in Aviation Maintenance Engineering with 10 years of progressive work experience as a licensed A&P Technician and 2 years work experience as auto and diesel mechanic. Must possess a current U.S. FAA A&P license.

Manager, Ramp & Flight Operations (1)
Associate's degree with 8 years progressive airline ramp operations and flight dispatch experience. Minimum 3 years work experience in ramp operations supervisory capacity. Must possess a current U.S. FAA license as Aircraft Dispatcher.

Ramp Agent (1)
High school diploma or its equivalent with 2 years work experience in the airline industry in relations to ramp cargo loading and unloading operations.

Senior Load Planning Specialist (1)
Associate's degree with 4 years of aircraft ramp operation experience with specific airline certification as a load planner.

DEADLINE: JANUARY 30, 2014

Applications for Employment are available at the Human Resources Department located at the POI Aviation Building on International Terminal LP, Saipan International Airport.

Equal Employment Opportunity Employer

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 29, 2006

Inhalable insulin OK'd

Here's a piece of good news for the CNMI's sizeable diabetic population. The first inhalable version of insulin won federal approval Friday, giving millions of adult diabetics an alternative to some of the injections they now endure. The Food and Drug Administration said the Pfizer Inc. insulin, to be marketed as "Exubera," is the first new way of delivering insulin since the discovery of the hormone in the 1920s. Pfizer jointly developed the drug and dispenser with Sanofi-Aventis and Nektar Therapeutics. It should be available to patients by midyear, Pfizer said. Use of rapid-acting inhaled insulin will not replace the need to inject the hormone occasionally, according to the FDA. And diabetics will have to continue pricking their fingers to test blood sugar levels.

Fitial rescinds BB promise on Compact funding

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial told officials of the Public School System yesterday that he would be rescinding the previous administration's promise to allocate the entire \$5.2 million Compact Impact funding to PSS. Instead, he would be distributing the monies to all government agencies affected by the current cash shortfall. The Commonwealth's chief executive announced his decision yesterday during a media briefing at the Governor's Office, shortly after he met with PSS top brass led by Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos and PSS director of finance Richard Waldo. Fitial said the Compact Impact fund should be distributed to government agencies also experiencing budget constraints such as the Department of Public Health, Department of Public Safety, among others.

January 29, 2007

Govt spending down nearly \$19M

Government spending is down by nearly \$19 million in the first quarter of fiscal year 2007, compared with the same period last year. A report by the Office of Management and Budget showed the government spent \$38.82 million between Oct. 1, 2006 and Dec. 31, 2006. This represents a 32.5-percent reduction from government expenditures from October to December 2005, which amounted to \$57.53-million. The suspended employer contributions to the NMI Retirement Fund accounted for \$5.16 million of the reduced cost.

DPS to hire more cops, firefighters

The Department of Public Safety is expected to hire soon more police officers and firefighters to augment its understaffed force. DPS commissioner Rebecca Warfield told Saipan Tribune that the police academy cycle will start training aspiring police officers and firefighters by next month. Warfield said she is very happy because the government and the legislature appropriated budget for the police academy cycle. The commissioner said it has already been a couple of years since DPS had training of police cadets due to budget problems.

January 29, 2008

Fund warns vs missed premium payments

The NMI Retirement Fund says government employees can lose their health care coverage if their agency-employer does not pay its share of medical premiums for three pay periods in a row. In a public notice, Fund administrator Mark A. Aguon urged members of the government health plan to monitor premium payments by their respective employers. "Please be aware that we are extremely sympathetic to your plight, but as your premiums now go directly to the carrier [Aetna Global Benefits], the Government Group Health and Life Insurance has, for all intents and purposes, ceased to exist," Aguon said.

New hazardous waste regs loom

The Division of Environmental Quality is proposing to promulgate its new CNMI Hazardous Waste Regulations in the February publication of the Commonwealth Registrar. "The new regulations will supersede the Hazardous Waste Management Regulations, which were adopted in 1984 and are now obsolete," according to DEQ public information officer Reina Camacho. "These Hazardous Waste Regulations are intended to address the potential for environmental contamination resulting from hazardous waste. To ensure the proper management of hazardous waste from cradle to grave, handlers of hazardous waste are required to meet specific standards and practices applicable to their specific waste type and quantity," a section of the new regulations stated.

Supreme Court disbars Atalig, Yana

The Supreme Court has disbarred Antonio M. Atalig and Reynaldo O. Yana. The disbarment followed the appeal of a trial court order, which indefinitely suspended the two for allegedly abusing legal process to obtain over \$1 million from the heirs of the Angel Malite estate.

The alleged abuse of legal process started when Atalig signed a contingency fee agreement with four out of 18 alleged heirs of the Malite estate. The agreement claimed to give Atalig a one-third interest in the entire estate, meaning it claimed to give Atalig all of his clients' share in the estate as well as some of the other alleged heirs' share.

In accordance with that agreement, the court overseeing distribution of the Malite estate entered an order granting Atalig and Yana (who later joined the case) more than a \$1 million. The other heirs challenged the distribution, but Atalig and Yana alleged all of the money had disappeared. They continued to claim they did not have the money even after the court ordered Atalig and Yana to return the money to the court.

On appeal, Atalig and Yana claimed the rules of professional conduct governing attorneys did not apply to them because they had ceased to represent the four heirs. The High Court disagreed, con-

cluding the two had violated, among others, the duties of candor and honesty toward a tribunal as well as the duty to keep client's funds safe. Atalig and Yana violated the first two duties because those duties apply to all attorneys in court regardless of whether they are representing clients or themselves. The two violated the third duty because they knew (or ought have to known) the other heirs would dispute the over \$1 million distribution.

The Supreme Court's full opinion is *In re Yana and Atalig*, 2014 MP 1, and can be found at <http://www.cnmilaw.org/judiciarybranch/supremecourt.html>. (*NMI Judiciary*)

Congressman says he supports Guam missile system

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—A congressional delegation leader who visited Guam this week said he supports the long-term deployment of a missile system at the U.S. territory.

U.S. Rep. Robert Wittman met in separate meetings Tuesday with Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo and Guam senators, *Pacific Daily News* reported.

The Virginia Republican is chairman of the House Armed Services Readiness Subcommittee. He voiced his support for the missile defense system the U.S. sent last year to Guam, a strategically important military outpost 1,500

miles south of Tokyo.

Guam's congressional delegate Madeleine Bordallo is seeking a permanent deployment of the system after North Korea mentioned Guam as a potential missile target last year. The missile defense system—called Terminal High Altitude Area Defense—is designed to intercept missiles during their final stage of flight.

Wittman, Bordallo, and Texas Rep. Bill Flores arrived Monday as part of a trip that also includes Okinawa, Japan.

Local senators met with the congressional delegation in the office of Speaker Judith Won

Pat, and both sides said it was cordial meeting.

It was a departure from a meeting a few years ago, when visiting U.S. senators left with the impression that local lawmakers opposed military expansion plans on the island, according to the newspaper.

"It's been a very, very constructive conversation," Wittman said. "It's good for us to come here in person to understand and ensure that as we make those decisions in Washington, and as we communicate with the folks in the Pentagon, that they understand, too, what the local concerns are."



LAW REVISION COMMISSION

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
JUDICIAL BRANCH

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

PUBLICATIONS CLERK & ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The successful candidate will work under the Executive Director of the Law Revision Commission / General Counsel for the Judicial Branch on Saipan. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Performs a full range of secretarial and administrative support duties for the Executive Director/General Counsel;
- Receives and screens visitors and callers; responds to inquiries and/or directs them to the appropriate authority; places calls and e-mail messages on behalf of the Executive Director/General Counsel;
- Performs duties of a highly confidential nature;
- Coordinates and arranges meetings and appointments for the Executive Director/General Counsel;
- Establishes and maintains a calendar for the Executive Director/General Counsel;
- Transcribes meeting minutes from written notes and/or audio recordings;
- Coordinates and assists the Executive Director/General Counsel with special projects;
- Adheres to and complies with all promulgated policies, standards, and codes of ethical conduct;
- Assists with the compilation, formatting and printing of electronic files of statutes, judicial decisions and regulations for publication in print and electronic media by providing administrative support;
- Responds to orders of Commission publications at the office and by packaging, mailing and delivering publications to subscribers, maintaining up-to-date subscribers' list, keeping inventory of publications in stock and maintaining documents re: publications sold;
- Contacts purchasers and potential purchasers regarding LRC products and services;
- Scans, cleans and converts documents to create searchable pdf files;
- Prepares monthly and annual sales reports and transmits cash and check sales to the Judiciary Cashier, enters credit card sales and other transactions into financial management system;
- Prepares timesheets;
- Drafts correspondence and other documents when requested;
- Opens office at 8 a.m. on a daily basis, closes office for lunch from 12:00 p.m., opens office at 1:00 p.m. after lunch, and closes office at 5:00 p.m.; time and attendance are critical;
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

The Publications Clerk/Administrative Assistant should possess an Associate's Degree or a high school diploma or equivalent plus a minimum of one (1) year work experience in office clerical work and have computer, word processing and secretarial skills. Legal secretary, website operation and /or publication office experience is preferred. College credits and/or business trade school is preferred. Must be extremely punctual and have impeccable attendance.

COMPENSATION: This position is exempt from civil service. The salary will be \$18,500 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/limwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, resumes, proof of high school graduation, along with copies of police clearance and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI may be submitted to:

Michelle V. Guerrero
Human Resource/Administrative Officer
Guma Hustisia/limwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-14-010

SAN ANTONIO AND GARAPAN SEWERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the replacement of sewerline in San Antonio and Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general of the replacement of asbestos cement pipe (ACP) sewerline in Garapan and San Antonio area. The project is to replace approximately ± 1099 LF of existing 8-inch ACP, ± 887 LF of existing 12-inch ACP, ± 374 LF of existing 15-inch ACP, existing concrete manhole repairs, 6-inch and 4-inch service laterals connection, wastewater by pass pumping and road restoration. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **180 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one IFB package set. Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by February 5, 2014 to be considered.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **January 31, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-14-010, San Antonio and Garapan Sewerline Replacement Project"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 14, 2014**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 05, 2014** to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply Division, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to LCDR Brian Bearden, Senior Engineer, CUC Water/Wastewater Division via email address brian.bearden@cucgov.org and Birhen Martinez, Engineer, Water/Wastewater Division via email address birhen.martinez@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-14-002 (Rev.1)

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF TYPHOON RECOVERY MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Typhoon Recovery Materials for CUC Power Division, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of \$80.00 for one IFB package set. Registrants of CUC-IFB-14-002 are exempted from paying the required fee. Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by **February 10, 2014** to be considered.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-14-002(Rev.1), Supply & Delivery of Typhoon Recovery Materials"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 28, 2014** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **February 12, 2014** to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alfredo Palattao, Engineer, CUC Power Division via email address alfredo.palattao@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN
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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

No amnesty for Edward Snowden

Late last year, Edward Snowden, the former National Security Agency contractor who stole and leaked thousands of classified U.S. documents, declared victory.

"For me, in terms of personal satisfaction, the mission's already accomplished," he told The Washington Post. "I already won."

Snowden is relishing his victory in Russia at the moment, where he has been granted asylum.

Last week he suggested again that he'd like to return to the United States—where he faces espionage charges—should an appropriate deal be offered. Some of his supporters have urged the United States to offer him amnesty.

On Thursday, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder rejected amnesty but did not rule out the possibility of plea negotiations, if Snowden returned to plead guilty. "If Mr. Snowden wanted to come back to the United States and enter a plea, we would engage with his lawyers," Holder said.

The United States has sound reason to stick to that position. No amnesty, no clemency. Snowden should return to the U.S. and face criminal charges.

It appears that he has been much more than a whistle-blower who embarrassed the White House and prompted a U.S. debate over privacy and NSA surveillance programs. He has damaged national security.

Snowden's disclosures set back U.S. efforts not just against terrorism, but cybercrime, human trafficking and weapons proliferation, according to a classified Pentagon report described by leaders of the House Intelligence Committee.

Most of the estimated 1.7 million classified documents that Snowden copied from NSA computers involve U.S. military operations. Fixing the damage to those operations will cost the government billions of dollars, says Republican Rep. Mike Rogers, chairman of the House committee.

Rogers and Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who leads the Senate Intelligence Committee, have suggested that Snowden might have been working for Russian spy services, though they have offered no proof of that.

Snowden insists he didn't turn over any documents to foreign governments. But The New York Times reported that "given the cyber skills of the Russian and Chinese intelligence agencies, they (U.S. officials) assume that those countries could have gotten them without Snowden's knowledge." That is, once these secret documents were copied and distributed by Snowden, they almost certainly landed in Beijing and Moscow.

U.S. officials have an incentive to lure Snowden back to the U.S. with a possible plea bargain—that is, treat him like an accused felon who has caused significant harm. If he cooperated, he could confirm to U.S. officials all that he took and where it was knowingly distributed. That could help officials minimize some of the damage. Snowden needs to cooperate, not thumb his nose at U.S. authorities from his Russian hide-hole.

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You're on TV

The best shots I've seen so far were those in the blocked intersections of Bangkok where old ladies apply make-up and gentlemen break into dance, two-stepping their protest into 15 minutes of fame. That was before a guy with lowered head cap and running shoes tossed a grenade on the other side of a partition to the yellow shirts, as perhaps, his statement that "enough is enough." With strutting politician Suthep Thaugsuban, erstwhile deputy prime minister in the last government, passionately urging the blocking of election precincts to prevent advance voters in Bangkok to vote, someone finally took sight of a leader of the anti-government protesters and pulled the trigger.

The evenings are no longer lit with friendly body-warming bonfires as buildings in Kiev and Cairo, Phnom Penh and Bangkok enflame the skies in the night. Marchers in Sao Paulo question the use of government funds for FIFA's World Cup when social services sorely needed in Brazil are not getting the attention they deserve.

Maryland, South Carolina, and Pennsylvania made the news three days in a row last week for guns going off with clear intent to kill. Of course, this is now treated as a matter of course in a country that has had 20 attempts to kill presidents. Four had been successful. Since JFK, save Lyndon Johnson, every president was threatened with assassination.

The United Nations reported in 2009 that 67 percent of U.S. homicides were by firearms. With the second amendment (the right to bear arms) in the Bill of Rights hotly debated, many using either self-defense and/or the pleasure of hunting as justification, 25 percent of the U.S. population own guns. Since Obama's watch, there has been 91 recorded school shootings, Sandy Hook in Connecticut being the most notorious, and before Barack, Columbine in Colorado.

Matthew Ward in 1853 in Louisville, KY bought a pistol one morning and killed the schoolmaster for excessive punishment of his brother the day before. Ward was acquitted of the crime but the practice of expressing one's displeasure through the barrel of a gun has not abated.

The tableau, however, has changed. Not only don't we have the specter of TV horde pointing cameras at every reported misdemeanor, we also now have smartphone services that carry news (all 4G of it) 7/24 instead of waiting for the evening news with a glass of ice-cold lemon tea in our favorite reclining sofa.

I remember stopping over Cebu City in the Visayas in early '64 on my way to Davao City in Mindanao for a national forensic competition. I was interviewed on local TV in what I thought was a surprisingly tiny makeshift room, needing tidying badly. I part-timed as a teenager on radio in DZCV Tuguegarao so I learned how to conduct myself over the airwaves, but I was not yet familiar with the phenomenon of 15-minutes of fame. The live broadcast seen by colleagues who had the chance to watch it thought that the interview

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



looked very professional. Camera-scope had a way of choosing only the clip it wanted to show. Today, we have paid professionals skilled in the manipulation of radio-TV-smartphone media. Alas, today's street protesters have also recognized the value of the art.

Being an imaginal educator, I understand the value of images in affecting human behavior. Sound bites and the video clip are now in the arsenal of revolutionaries. One wish the art and the discipline are the only ones employed. Unfortunately, burning tires and shadows in the night inflict more fear and imagined pain than clear objective images. Their employ in protest movements has become ubiquitous.

Now, back to Bangkok and the other cities around the world where massive demonstrations are occurring uncontrollably. We say to the folks on the streets of Cairo, Phnom Penh, Bangkok, and Kiev, to name a few, that those in despair live yesterday, those anxious live in tomorrow's sorrow, and those who live today are in peace, our paraphrase of Lao Tzu.

There is much of living in yesterday that zeroes on missed opportunities and the tyranny of the "ought." "We should have..." often lace the discourse, and blame-seeking, blame-throwing is the first order of business of righting wrongs. Anxiety rules tomorrow by the very nature of its mystery. Even statistical probabilities as basis of predictions do not allay foreboding; economic value measures "what is not" rather than "what is" as comparative advantage to determine value.

I am not promoting indecisive *que sera sera* nor indifferent *bahala na* here. But even the *amein* of the Levant, translated as "let it be," sounds more like abject surrender in the Arabic *anshallah*, and the popular Buddhist chant of *om mani padme hum* asserting peace is still fundamentally a declaration of "nothingness as everything."

So, you want to be on TV. I am not prescriptive but it makes sense to be proactive. What is it that one objectively intends to promote? The 15 minutes of psychological therapy for feeling that one has righted a wrong is time wasted; the 15 minutes to assert one's anxiety over the uncertainty of things to come is a dart wasted in the dark.

Celebrate. Today. All of it in your whole waking hours. You're on TV!

CW pitfalls: Traps for the unwary

pitfall: *an unsuspected difficulty or danger; a trap in the form of a concealed pit, designed to catch men or wild animals. Word origin: c.1300, a type of animal trap. Extended sense of "any hidden danger" is first recorded 1580s*

Ever since we first started this column, in July 2009, we have tried to address current issues and common difficulties that we see arising from the transition of the control of immigration from the authority of the CNMI to the United States. We base our assessment on what qualifies as a current issue by the problems our immigration clients bring to us. We will often have a rush of people with similar problems. Many clients have come to us lately regarding problems with CW renewals. A lot of people are suffering serious—and unnecessary—difficulties resulting from what might seem like minor errors in handling those renewals. Here's some tips on how to do it right and how not to do it wrong, and how to avoid the pitfalls associated with some common situations.

First round of CW applications

The CW program was first implemented on Oct. 5, 2011, when the CW regulations became effective. The deadline for initial applications was November 28, 2011. Employers and employees have gone through the first round of CW applications and are now in the renewal process. Because the program was new and glitches were bound to happen, USCIS granted a couple of helpful exceptions that were unique to the initial round of applications:

- The application was deemed filed when mailed. All other applications to USCIS, including CW renewals, responses to RFEs (Requests for Further Evidence), requests for reconsideration, and any form of appeal must be received by USCIS in order to be deemed as filed timely.

- The worker could start working (or continue working as long as the employment was previously legal under either an umbrella permit or a CNMI entry permit) as soon as the application was mailed. The worker could continue working until the CW application was either approved or denied. By contrast, a worker with an application for renewal can only work while the original CW approval is valid. Once the prior CW permit expires, workers with pending CW renewals must stop working until USCIS makes up its mind whether to approve the renewal or not. This is why it is so important for the employer to file early to renew, well before expiration, so that there is no gap in CW status. A gap in status harms both employer and worker, although almost always it is the worker who suffers the greatest hardship even when the employer makes the mistake.

CW renewals

Because CW is a one-year work permit, it must be renewed every year. It is helpful to think of this as a whole new application because, in fact, it is. There is excellent guidance on the USCIS website on CW requirements in general (<http://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/cw-1-cnmi-only-transitional-worker>); step-by-step instructions for employers (<http://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/cw-1-cnmi-only-transitional-worker>); and step-step instructions for workers (<http://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/cw-1-cnmi-only-transitional-worker/instructions-employees-who-would-transitional-worker-status-cnmi>). There are many pitfalls associated with the renewal process. We will address the most common ones.

PITFALL NO.1: File first and advertise later

The policy of U.S. immigration is to ensure that foreign workers do not displace or diminish opportunities for U.S. workers. Therefore, if an employer wishes to renew a foreign worker, he must first ensure that there are no qualified U.S. workers (citizens, green card holders, FAS citizens, and EAD holders) available for the position. In the days of CNMI control over immigration, we thought of this as the JVA (job vacancy announcement). The CNMI Department of Labor recently published final regulations that require that all JVAs, including those for non-alien, be published on its website. We question whether such a requirement is legally enforceable; it is, however, convenient. We hazard to guess that most employers of foreign workers will comply rather than risk the expense and inconvenience of an enforcement action by that department. In the meantime many employers continue to advertise in the local newspapers and on the radio, which has been accepted by USCIS.

Employers must make sure that the JVA is complete and that the requisite number of days has passed before filing the application for the CW renewal. We have had a number of unfortunate worker clients who have come to us whose renewals were denied because the employers filed first and advertised for the position later, while the application was already pending. This will lead to an automatic denial. We are aware of at least one large employer that has made this mistake with regards to the renewal applications of a large number of workers.

There is no cure for this situation, other than for the worker to return to his home country, and go through consular processing for

a new CW, based on a new CW petition. This is costly and time consuming for the employer; it disrupts the worker's income stream, and it involves considerable stress for workers who must leave children and spouses behind with no guarantee of return. Worse, because of the expense and delay, employers often choose to employ another worker. All in all, this is a very sad situation that can easily be avoided by simply posting the JVA first and filing for a renewal later. This same situation applies to people who are "transferring" to a new employer who has filed a petition for a worker who is already validly employed as a CW for someone else, with the difference that a transferring worker can start working as soon as the petition for the new CW is filed.

PITFALL NO. 2: Failure to inform worker of RFEs and denials

Because the CW application is made by the employer, any RFEs or denials come to the employer. We have had numerous workers come to us whose employers either failed to inform them of a denial or an RFE or simply failed to respond to an RFE, which results in automatic denial. Again, this is a situation that can be simply avoided. However, it appears that a number of unscrupulous employers have simply allowed the worker to work past the CW expiration date by misleading them about the status of their applications. If an application is denied either on the merits or because an RFE goes unanswered, the worker loses status and begins to accrue unlawful presence, or what is called "bad time," beginning with the CW expiration date.

This can have negative results: First, because worker is out of status, he is subject to removal, which is the current term for deportation. Since ICE has not conducted any raids in the CNMI to look for workers in illegal status, as it does in other jurisdictions, the worker may go unnoticed and not be deported unless he commits a crime. However, if the worker remains in the CNMI without status, and especially if he works without employment authorization, the worker may be rendered inadmissible to the entire U.S., not just the CNMI, on a subsequent application for status. Which means that even if a worker in illegal status finds a legitimate employer, he will likely be denied because of prior unlawful presence and/or unauthorized employment.

Second, the clock starts running for the 3- and 10-year bars against admission to the U.S. If an alien remains in the U.S. out of status for up to six months and then departs, he is barred from returning for three years. If an alien remains out of status for a full year and then departs, he cannot return for 10 years. There are unusual circumstances that may qualify an alien for a waiver for the 3- and 10-year bars but they are very difficult to come by.

Remember, USCIS counts the "bad time" days beginning on the day after the CW status expires, not on the date a renewal application or appeal is denied.

PITFALL NO. 3: Worker filing for reconsideration or appeal of denial

This cannot be done: the CW petition is an employer's petition and the worker has no standing to appeal; the appeal will be automatically denied. Remember, CW is an application by the employer to hire a foreign worker for a particular job. If the application is denied, only the employer can file for reconsideration or any form of appeal. There are several levels of appeal from a denial. A denial may be completely valid, sometimes based on the qualification of the employer or the qualification of the worker, or some other circumstance that the worker has no control over. Or the denial may be wrong on the facts or there is a viable legal argument to be made to challenge the denial. Unless the employer is on board with the appeal, and is willing to bear the expense, there is no point in bringing an appeal, and we have had to turn the workers away under these circumstances.

A word on CW denial appeals: in general, they are a waste of time and money, even when the employer brings them. They are rarely successful, regardless whether they are brought by an attorney or not, because they rarely involve the kind of legal error by USCIS that will result in a reversal. They are rarely resolved before the six months has passed and the worker will be subject to the 3-year bar on returning once he leaves the U.S. (that is, leaves the CNMI). Filing an appeal provides zero right to remain and none to continue working while the appeal is pending. We generally tell employers (and workers) to save their money, file a new petition, and process it from outside the CNMI. We have also found that CW visa applications for "outside" workers tend to process more quickly.

PITFALL NO. 4: Involuntary and voluntary termination of employment

A worker who is involuntarily terminated from a CW position has 30 days within which to find a new employer who—within those 30 days—files a new CW petition for the terminated worker. Remember that "files" means "received by USCIS at the California Service Center." And "terminated" means "fired"—it does not mean "I'll quit and I'll get someone else to file for me." The terminated worker for whom a timely CW petition has been filed by a new employer can begin to work for the new employer while waiting for adjudica-

IMMIGRATION FORUM

By **MAYA KARA** and **BRUCE MAILMAN**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

tion of the new petition.

If that 30-day deadline is not met, the new employer can still file a CW petition but the worker will have to leave the CNMI and have a CW visa processed at the appropriate U.S. consulate. Workers who voluntarily quit their jobs without having an approved second CW employment will also have to exit the CNMI and go through consular processing.

So will workers whose employers do not renew their CW employment. In most cases, that is not "involuntary termination" of employment. Ideally, these workers should be informed of non-renewal soon enough in advance of the termination date that they can have a petition timely filed by a new, second employer. But if they do not, then they are out of luck with regard to waiting in the CNMI for an approval.

Please keep in mind that there is no right to CW renewal. This was an issue when the CNMI government controlled immigration, before CW existed, and in that regard little has changed. Workers are still fighting about having the right to renewal and they are still losing. Unless there is some legal basis such as wrongful termination, as a practical matter these fights are—like most CW denial appeals—a waste of time.

PITFALL NO 5: Filing for PIP to improve status from a CW

Our first column, back in early July 2009, was titled "Rumors and Whispers," in which we dealt with the various instances of wholly inaccurate rumors, not to mention bald-faced lies, that were circulating in the foreign worker communities at that time. We have now encountered one that has wreaked real havoc in the lives of many foreign workers. The rumor is that you can improve your immigration status by abandoning your CW status and obtaining humanitarian parole, known most often in the CNMI as Parole in Place ("PIP"), usually because there are U.S. citizen children in the family. If you get PIP, you can also get an Employment Authorization Document ("EAD") and then you are free to work for anyone without going through the CW renewal process. This is viewed as an improved status by employers and workers alike. Sadly, it appears that employers, as well as workers, are involved in spreading this rumor.

Unfortunately this will not work. A parole of any kind is a form of administrative grace that is accorded by USCIS under certain circumstances. A parole is permission to remain in the U.S. without regular status, such as a green card, a CW, a student visa, and so forth. Parole is a last resort for someone who is not eligible for any other form of status but who the government deems worthy of special consideration. In the rest of the U.S., it is considered an extraordinary form of relief.

In the case of the CNMI, the transition from local to federal control of immigration brought about many unforeseen and unintended consequences. One was the presence in the CNMI of a large numbers of foreign workers who had lived and worked here for many years and who had established families. Their children, born here, are U.S. citizens by birth. Those foreign workers who were not able to establish some kind of status by Nov. 28, 2011, were at risk of either being removed or forced to "voluntarily" depart, often destroying family unity. In recognition of this reality, USCIS therefore established a procedure for granting PIP to parents of U.S. citizen children under the age of 21. The procedure was announced on Thanksgiving Day 2011, a few days before the original CW filing deadline. As a result, a number of people who might have chosen to file for PIP instead obtained CW status.






Those who are the beneficiaries of approved CW petitions are deemed to have been "admitted" to the United States. This is a statutory (legal) definition and has nothing to do with crossing the border. If you have an approved CW, you have been admitted. You are therefore ineligible for parole, a form of relief only for those who have not been admitted. Therefore, if you are planning to either allow your CW to expire without renewal or quit your CW job in order to apply for PIP as the parent of a minor U.S. citizen, don't. The outcome will be that your PIP will be denied, you will be out of status, and you will start accruing bad time. If your luck is bad, you

See CW on Page 13

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 85° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 75
Yap	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 80

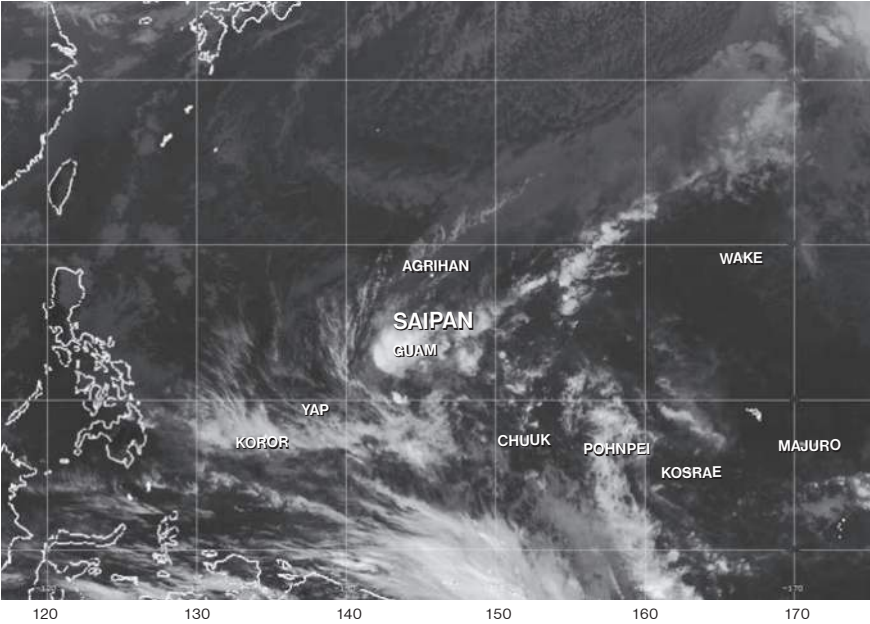
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 70 ▼ 62
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 47 ▼ 23
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲ 72 ▼ 62
Honolulu	Windy	▲ 79 ▼ 67
London	Cloudy	▲ 42 ▼ 34
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 74 ▼ 52
Manila	Cloudy	▲ 83 ▼ 71
Melbourne	Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 62
Miami	Showers	▲ 79 ▼ 64
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 25 ▼ 14
Osaka	Showers	▲ 54 ▼ 45
Paris	Cloudy	▲ 44 ▼ 34
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 57 ▼ 35
Rome	Rain	▲ 54 ▼ 50
Salem	Showers	▲ 50 ▼ 38
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲ 62 ▼ 51
Seoul	Showers	▲ 42 ▼ 21
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 60 ▼ 45
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 27 ▼ 19

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
12:07 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet	
7:07 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	
12:24 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet	
5:37 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2014

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves west-southwestward from 25N163E to 22N158E then continues as a shear line to a circulation centered at 8N146E. Extensive cloud cover and patchy showers are found along and up to 500 miles north of the front while scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the Marianas between 12N and 15N from 142E to 149E. A surface trough stretches eastward from 7N130E to the circulation south of Guam near 8N146E then heads to the southeast to end south of Kosrae at EQ164E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located over Koror and south of Yap along and within 200 miles north of the trough and over Pohnpei within 100 miles of a line from 9N158E to EQ159E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers south and east of Majuro between 3N and 8N from 170E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:14 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:14 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:15 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:15 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:15 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:43 AM	4:29 PM
Thursday	5:42 AM	5:34 PM
Friday	6:37 AM	6:38 PM
Saturday	7:30 AM	7:40 PM
Sunday	8:20 AM	8:39 PM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 25, 2014

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5039 1:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5038 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29) DZ104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN DZ101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily DZ103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6 (will increase eff Jan 29)
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU764 4:00am 8:00am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU763 7:20pm 3:00am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:00am 10:55pm Daily via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:30pm 5 via Guam UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:50pm 1, 4, 7 via Guam UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 7:45am 1:30am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 9:55am 5:35pm 2, 7 via Guam UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-TIANJIN (TSN) D2884 10:45am 2:45pm Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24	TIANJIN (TSN)-SAIPAN D2885 4:45pm 12:20am+1 Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH) D2880 4:30pm 8:00pm Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27	HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN D2881 10:00pm 5:15am+1 Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27
SAIPAN-WUHAN (WUH) D2882 11:00am 3:15pm Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26	WUHAN (WUH)-SAIPAN D2883 5:15pm 12:20am+1 Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 170	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

The future's now!

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



The CNMI has reached the end of a forked road with a sign that says, "The Future's Now!" It must make a crucial decision on how to improve, beyond conventional wisdom, its single most important economic foundation: tourism.

The issue is a matter of policy decision. It needs the joint effort of policymakers on both sides of the hill. It includes an urgent need to resolve the emplacement of an expanded basic infrastructure, i.e., highway, water, power and sewer for major investments moving to the northern part of Saipan.

The point that should be uppermost in policymakers' mind is: How do we improve upon the only industry that feeds the local coffers? Moreover, how do we scaffold it so it is sustainable over the long haul, capable of meeting our revenue needs with stability?

The investment for the northern end of the island has begun moving. Have we given it equal agility to meet investors' requirements in basic infrastructure and other complimentary facilities? It's already in the harbor. We've granted it public land to assist in the expansion of our tourism industry. Shouldn't we be burning the midnight oil to ensure we complement the impending mega investment?

It's all in the palm of our hands. It is here when we must learn to help ourselves!

It's a partnership

A message to teenage mothers

Editor's Note: The following is the complete text of the speech that Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio delivered at her investiture ceremony on Jan. 24, 2014, at the CNMI Supreme Court courtroom.

Good morning dignitaries, honorable members of the bench, guests, friends, and family. *Si yuus ma'ase* for your attendance today to share this occasion with my family and myself. I am both humbled and honored to be elevated to the position of associate judge of the CNMI Superior Court.

It was a journey I embarked on on Oct. 3, 2013, with many people guiding me. A journey I would not have been able to take without them:

- Governor Inos: Thank you for nominating me, but most especially thank you for the years of experience you provided me as our lieutenant governor and now our governor. I gained characteristics that I believe will help me not just as a person but as a judge and I learned that from you. You were a true mentor. I will miss the Executive Branch, because I will no longer work under your tutelage. You are a great leader to follow.

- Chairman of the Senate EAGI committee, Sen. Francisco Cruz, and Vice Chairwoman, Sen. Jovita Taimanao, and the members of the Senate: Thank you for your favorable votes and your guidance through the process. Your support was overwhelming. I will not forget that you are the people responsible for putting me here.

- All those who submitted letters favorable for my confirmation and testified on my behalf: I am privileged to have earned your support.

- The CNMI Bar Association: for giving my colleagues the opportunity to evaluate me. It was a critical component of the process so the general public would have confidence in me, knowing my colleagues do as well.

- Judges and justices: Thank you for your words of wisdom and encouragement through the confirmation process, and thank you for welcoming me to the bench; for opening your doors to me and sharing what institutional knowledge you have and experiences you've gained.

- My family for carrying me through this process emotionally and spiritually.

Investment in the islands is basically a partnership. The investor comes in with millions of dollars to build planned visitor facilities, among others. Ours is to provide basic infrastructure like water, power, road expansion, and sewer to meet the needs of our partner at least halfway.

There are capital improvement funds for this purpose. It's a matter of prioritizing how those funds are spent. For now, there's a need to move use of these funds up north to expand water, power, sewer and roads. If this is done on a timely basis, the construction of the Sunshine 100 project ought to begin and complete on time.

Beyond conventional wisdom

Tourism doesn't begin and end in hotel rooms, trips to dilapidated and unmaintained visitor sites, or counting visitor arrival. It takes our improving the platform on services and attractions to lure the wealthier visitors. What are these services?

Just to illustrate a point on services: A certain hotel in Japan caters to top guns of the largest corporations. It's a membership hotel with a certain annual fee that includes superb services and a round of golf in a fully manicured 18-hole links. If the businessman brings his wife, she's given a \$5,000 gift certificate to spend at the mini-mall downstairs. It's excellence in service for its clientele.

Of course, we don't have the financial wherewithal for gift certificates for visitors to spend at gift shops. But there are services that require significant improvements. Call it "hospitality." For instance, are rooms throughout the hotels up to international standards? Why do we have suites with rugs that are as old as dinosaurs with strange odor? Shouldn't rooms be upgraded so it offers real comforts to our guests who grace these isles?

Restaurants and entertainment: Shouldn't we be offering a "welcoming" night to visitors with fiesta-like food spread that includes roasted pig known as "cha'an" (equivalent to a luau) and other local delicacies to show our visitors our indigenous food? Is it hard to begin this by giving each visitor flower leis of our Marianas Flower? Music and entertainment are aplenty but only needs strong organization so we show off the real dance and music of the islands.

How about exploring cottage-type hotels? This is very popular

in Kauai and the Bahamas. Shouldn't we explore this for the smaller islands like Pagan, Tinian, and Rota? How about cruise-type accommodations with an overnight stopover on Pagan before heading home to Japan? The island has a lot of natural hot springs that could be developed for visitors, right? A cultural center, anybody?

Overall, it's all about service, isn't it? It includes courtesy from we the host to visitors, right? It's all about making sure they enjoy the triad of the sun, sand, and sunset by ensuring their protection. We want them to leave with a sweet taste in their mouth for being showered excellent Marianas hospitality!

Signature investments

The planned investments, including those waiting in the wings on alternative energy, could very well serve as the signature investment of this administration and Legislature. It's investment you could hang your hat on for life in and out of office. You could proudly claim you were a part of the working team that made anchor investments possible.

Government policies are needed to trigger moving the needle of economic growth forward. Such undertaking would allow for a thriving economy. The jobs will follow. The only thing needed in this case is a strong political decision to move forward. Everything else is academic once the ship of lasting investments moves out of the harbor of bankruptcy or fiscal impotence. Think about it.

■ ■ ■

Nearly 10 years ago, I got off in Houston where visitors from Japan boarded more than two huge buses headed to their hotels. The idea kept swirling in mind, you know, that many Japanese visiting Houston. How about a tropical island?

I learned that the trip wasn't purely leisure but business as well. Texas has its own culture and famous for its steak, barbecue, and beef jerky too. It has a lot to offer our friends from the Land of the Rising Sun. We can't match Texas in its natural ambiance and attractions, but we certainly can begin thinking of improving upon services and hospitality to lure returning visitors.

By **TERESA KIM-TENORIO**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Teresa Kim-Tenorio is the newest associate judge of the CNMI Superior Court.



they never gave up on me. They may be a sighing that sigh of relief today. I am truly blessed to have this particular set of parents. They never gave up on me, continued to be the wind beneath my wings as I tested the waters and their patience and defined who I was and who I wanted to be.

So my message to teenage mothers out there is when you take a wrong turn in life, don't think you must continue on that path. Even worse, don't think you are stuck on that path. There is no "right" path or just "one" road to success. There are many paths that only require one thing: determination.

I thank you all again for sharing this moment with me. I thank the two youngest persons in the courtroom, my sons, Pedro and Sun-joon, for being such a great support system for me through this process. I would also like to thank the Lord Almighty for loving me so much. I also thank Him for bringing one special person into my life: my best friend, my biggest fan, and the most encouraging person: my husband, Perry John. Every time I accomplish something, be it big or small, I know Perry John is always so proud of me. Always so selfless. Thank you "asaguahu!"

I wish that my older brother, Hea Joung, and my younger sister, Angela, who cringed every time I broke the rules or maybe secretly smirked and felt relieved that I broke the rules first, could've made it out here to be with us. I also wish my two older sons, Air Force Airman Justis Tenorio and Army Specialist Sunho Tenorio, were here. But as I protect the Constitution in my judicial capacity, they are defending it in the most honorable way, by protecting your lives and mine and fighting for our freedom. Thank you both and all our service men and women for your service.

Thank you, *si yuus maase, olomwaay.*

CW

From Page 11

will also be subject to removal.

There is more bad news. We had a client who allowed his CW to expire on the advice of a "friend" so that he could apply for PIP. The application was denied and he filed for reconsideration. This was also denied. He then hired a lawyer to file an appeal; this too was denied. By the time he came to see us, more than six months had passed since the expiration date of his CW. He thought that

during the time between the filing of his initial PIP application and the last denial, his unlawful presence was tolled (the clock stopped ticking). He was wrong. The clock started ticking the day after his CW expiration and continued all through his various forms of appeal. If he was less than six months out, he could have returned to his home country and have an employer file a CW petition and go through consular processing and re-enter the CNMI on a new CW. This would take a few months, and he would have to explain the overstay. But because he is now an overstayer for more than six months, as soon as he leaves the CNMI, the 3-year bar snaps into place and he cannot return until the time has passed.

As we've said many times before, friends don't let non-attorney friends give legal advice. And if they do give legal advice, don't listen. The stakes are too high.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lex-marianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune at editor@saipantribune.com.

Duenas is Mount Carmel School's Teacher of the Year

By THOMAS A. MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Mount Carmel bestowed its Teacher of the Year award yesterday on veteran 4th grade teacher Shirley Duenas.

Duenas, who has been an educator for the past 13 years, said the best thing about her job is "seeing students understand a subject and learn new material."

She first started out as a second grade teacher three years ago and prior to that served as a teacher at San Vicente Elementary. Her father, who passed away in 2003 and was an educator himself, inspired her to pursue the path of becoming a teacher.

"I hope he is proud of me," she said.

Duenas shared that, although teaching wasn't something she always wanted to do as a mother and a single parent, when she taught her first class 13 years ago, she fell in love with the students and instantly connected with the school system.

Fellow 4th grade teacher and 2013 Teacher of the Year Carmen Agulto worked with Duenas at San Vicente several years ago and transferred to MCS with her. Since then, the two have been considered by many at the school as a "powerful teacher duo."

"I congratulate her and I know she did a good job," Agulto told *Saipan Tribune*.

One of her students, Richard Steele, echoed Agulto's message. "She is really fun when she teaches. When I saw that she won the award I felt like jumping up on stage and hugging her."

Teacher of the Year runner-up and high school science teacher Luz Baldazo expressed similar sentiments.

The Teacher of the Year, according to school president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, is selected by a panel of experienced educators from the Public School System who observe the can-



THOMAS A. MANGLONA II

Mount Carmel School Teacher of the Year Shirley Duenas and runner-up Luz Baldazo pose for a photo after the awards ceremony, flanked by school officials.

didates' classes throughout the month. According to Guerrero, this year's awardee won by one point on the judge's score sheet.

Yesterday's celebration was a part of MCS' Catholic Schools Week, and yesterday's theme was "Appreciating teachers, faculty, and staff." Students also put together a clever skit that mimicked the teaching styles of the school's faculty and staff and sang songs to honor their teachers.

The event also featured the presentation of the school's inaugural teaching loyalty degree, which is awarded to individuals who have worked with Mount Carmel for over 12

years. Teachers Delfina Muna, Zita Sablan, Luz Baldazo and staff Mina Benevente and Julia Villafuerte were named official "alumknights" of MCS and received the degree presented by school officials.

Keynote speaker Velma Camacho Deleon Guerrero, a long-time educator herself, talked about the sacrifices she

From right, MCS 2013 Teacher of the Year Carmen Agulto, 2014 Teacher of the Year Shirley Duenas, and grade school teacher Frances Taimanao are all smiles during yesterday's Catholic Schools Week celebration.

THOMAS A. MANGLONA II



made as an educator in order to ensure that "no student gets left behind."

Guerrero shared that her position as the Liberal Arts Program coordinator and acting department chair for Languages and Humanities at NMC played an integral role in broadening her passion for teaching since her first teaching position at MCS.

"The interaction I have with the students and watching them grow and have success is something that is priceless," she said.

MCS president Deleon Guerrero thanked the teachers and staff for their continued work and support for the students and noted that "out of the 90 times Jesus is referred to in the Gospel he is called 'teacher' 60 times."

Shirley Duenas and Carmen Agulto's fourth grade class.

THOMAS A. MANGLONA II

Business

Stocks fall worldwide on emerging-market fears

NEW YORK (AP)—Stock markets fell across the globe on Monday, but at least it wasn't another rout on Wall Street.

Shaky economies and plunging currencies in the developing world fueled a worldwide sell-off as fearful investors pushed prices lower across Asia and Europe.

In the U.S. and other rich countries with healthier economies, investors also retreated, although the selling was more modest.

Major indexes in both Hong Kong and Tokyo fell more than 2 percent. The selling then spread to Europe and the U.S., as stocks slipped across the board, but the declines were much less than on Friday, when the American market ended its worst week since 2012.

Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at BMO Private Bank, said he wasn't surprised that the U.S. losses were limited.

"We have an accelerating economy, low inflation and accommodative monetary policy," he said. "The world isn't falling apart."

The Dow Jones industrial average slipped 41.23 points, or 0.26 percent, to 15,837.88. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 8.73 points, or 0.5 percent, to 1,781.56. The tech-heavy Nasdaq was down the most in the U.S., falling 44.56 points, or 1.1 percent, to 4,083.61.

The market turbulence was set off last week by a report from China on a downturn in its manufacturing, more evidence that the world's second-largest economy is slowing. That's a big problem for Brazil, South Africa and other developing countries that have come to depend on exports to that country.

Adding to the troubles: The decision by the U.S. Federal Reserve last month to scale back its bond-buying stimulus for the American economy, which has helped keep interest rates low. Money that had flooded emerging markets looking for higher returns outside the U.S. has begun to come back now that rates may rise, battering those markets.

Despite Monday's widespread selling, experts say the troubles in China and elsewhere in the developing world are unlikely to derail a global economic recovery that appears to be gaining momentum. Growth in the world's wealthy economies is expected to pick up the slack.

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Jason Hardzewicz, left, works at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Monday, Jan. 27, 2014.

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YOUR OFFICE COACH

When a job applicant has the dirt on HR manager

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: After submitting several unsuccessful applications to a local business, I have concluded that I'm being blocked by the human resources manager. "Ashley" and I previously worked together at a different corporation until she was fired for sending obscene text messages. She may be afraid that if I join her company, I will tell people about this incident.

I have tried to reconnect with Ashley by sending friendly emails, but she never replied. She also failed to acknowledge my LinkedIn invitation. I hate to just give up, because this company has a great reputation and the position is perfect for me. I know there could be other reasons why I'm not getting an interview, but I strongly suspect that Ashley is the problem. How can I get past her?

ANSWER: If Ashley holds a gatekeeper position, and you are correct about her motives, then applying through HR will be an exercise in futility. To have any hope of getting an interview, you will need to take the more circuitous route of establishing communication with the hiring manager.

To make this connection, use your network of contacts to identify the appropriate person and obtain an email address or phone number. If you can find someone willing to make an introduction, that will be even better. Connecting through LinkedIn is also a possibility.

However you make contact, your objective is to create such a strong impression that the manager will want to schedule an interview. HR may still be part of the process, but Ashley will no

longer be in the power position.

Q: The owner of my company is pressuring me to retire. He keeps setting dates for me to leave, but I just ignore them and keep on working. I am 73 years old and have been here for fifteen years, though I currently work only three days a week.

Because this company has no retirement benefits, I believe the owner should lay me off or fire me so that I can draw unemployment insurance. So far, he has refused to do this. I would actually like to retire, but I'm mainly staying just for the principle. I don't want to give in and walk away empty-handed. What's your opinion?

A: My opinion is that you're being silly and stubborn. You want to retire, your boss wants you to retire ... so retire already. Given the wisdom of your years, you should be able to see that you are currently engaged in a pointless power struggle.

You've known all along about the lack of a retirement plan, so you can't complain about that now. And since you intend to stop working, you will not be eligible for unemployment insurance. Those benefits are provided exclusively for people who are actively seeking employment.

The bottom line is that you should abandon this ridiculous tug-of-war and have a straightforward talk with the owner about the terms of your departure. If you remain pleasant and cooperative, perhaps he will honor your long service with a reasonable severance payment.

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of *Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.

NEW YORK (AP)—Manscaping just got more complicated.

Looks like beards are in, but body hair is out.

P&G says the trend toward facial hair like stubble and beards as well as "Movember," when guys grow out their beards to promote prostate cancer awareness, has hurt its razor sales. But the world's largest consumer products company said shaving from the neck down is becoming more popular among men.

So P&G is introducing a new razor called Gillette Body Razor that's designed specifically for body shaving. The razor, which is be in stores mid-February,

P&G introduces body razor

will be the center of an ad campaign, that will have the tagline: "The first razor built for the male terrain."

"Facial shaving is somewhat down, but body shaving is up, and we can take advantage of that," said CFO Jon Moeller.

Like most consumer product companies, P&G is trying to offset slower growth in developed markets with cost cuts and by expanding in emerging markets. It is also focusing on improving its grooming and beauty categories with new products

and heavier marketing.

P&G, which is based in Cincinnati, said Friday that its net income fell 16 percent as P&G faced a tough comparison with the results a year ago. P&G also was hurt by the stronger dollar and nearly flat sales globally. Grooming sales globally were flat at \$2.11 billion. Overall Procter & Gamble, like most consumer product companies, is trying to offset slower growth in developed markets with cost cuts and by expanding in emerging markets. It is also focus-

ing on improving its grooming and beauty categories with new products and heavier marketing.

P&G hopes the Body Razor, which will retail for \$7.97, will help rejuvenate the category. It found that 37 million men in the U.S., about 29 percent, have shaved some part of their body from the neck down in the past 6 months. Usually, men use other methods like hair removal cream, waxing or their girlfriend's razor, said P&G spokeswoman Susan Oguche. "We felt there was an opportunity to make a product specifically designed for the curvature of the body," she said.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW 15,837.88 -41.23 -0.26%	S&P 1,781.56 -8.73 -0.49%	NASDAQ 4,083.61 -44.57 -1.08%
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EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	1.1403	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7648	Philippine Peso	45.3250
British Pound	0.6020	Indian Rupee	63.0201	Singapore Dollar	1.2745
Canadian Dollar	1.1098	Indonesian Rupiah	12158.1000	South Korean Won	1081.3374
Chinese Yuan	6.0495	Japanese Yen	102.6434	Swiss Franc	0.8960
Euro	0.7309	Malaysian Ringgit	3.3428	Taiwan Dollar	30.3580
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2100	Thailand Baht	32.9000

Nation

Deep freeze in Midwest puts normal routines on ice

CHICAGO (AP)—Parents brought kids to work or just stayed home because schools were closed, again. Office workers hailed cabs to ride a block—or less. And companies offering delivery services were inundated with business as Arctic air blasted the central U.S. on Monday for the second time in weeks, disrupting the lives of even the hardest Midwesterners.

As temperatures and wind chills plummeted throughout the day, even simple routines were upended by the need to bundle up, with anyone venturing outdoors being well advised to layer up with clothing, coats, hats, scarves and gloves.

And there's no quick relief in sight as subzero highs were expected to dominate across the region into Tuesday.

"This is similar to what we had three weeks ago" in terms

of life-threatening conditions, said Sarah Marquardt, a National Weather Service meteorologist. "With wind chills in the minus 30 to minus 40 range, you can get frostbite within 10 minutes on exposed skin."

In Chicago, temperatures had fallen below zero by Monday afternoon with wind chills in the negative double-digits.

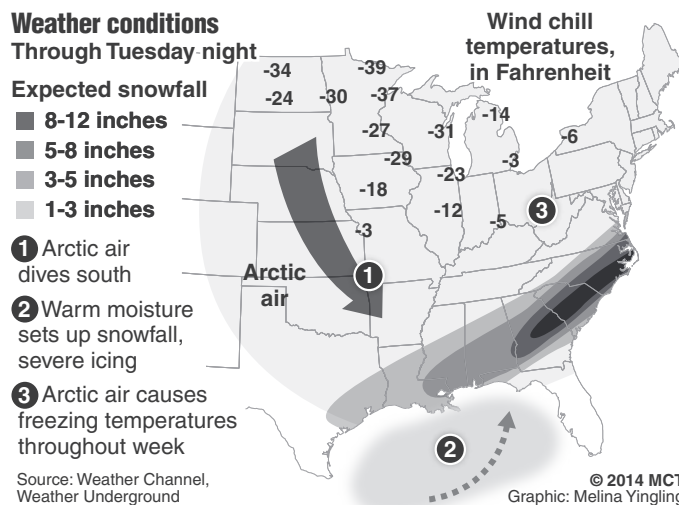
"We had two (employees) call in because they couldn't come to work because of the school closings, and another called in sick," said Kristelle Brister, the manager of a Chicago Starbucks, who was forced to bring her 9-year-old son to work after the city shut down its 400,000-student school system for the day.

Residents of Minnesota and Wisconsin faced similar if even somewhat more severe weather.

Wind chills in the minus 40s were expected in Minneapolis,

Still more snow, ice and cold

Another winter storm is bringing frigid temperatures to half the country and dangerous ice and snow to the South.



while in Milwaukee the chill hit minus 23 by mid-afternoon.

Elsewhere, wind chills of minus 18 were expected in Dayton, Ohio, minus 14 in Kansas City,

Mo., and minus 3 in Louisville, Ky.

The chill Monday was enough to keep even the hardest people off the streets, including

the customers of the Hollywood Tan salon in the southwestern Illinois' community of Belleville.

"It's definitely a lot slower," said salon manager Kelly Benton, who wasn't expecting anything near the 100 tanners the salon sees on a typical day.

But the chill didn't keep crowds from Tiny Tots and Little Tykes Preschool and Child Care Center in West St. Paul, Minn., where the cold weather means a lot more jumping rope and riding around on scooters—anything to escape cabin fever and let kids burn off some energy.

"We're just trying to keep them busy, but it's definitely more of a challenge when you can't get outside," said Manarae Schaan, the executive director.

The brutally cold weather has brought a spike in business for GrubHub Seamless, a company

that lets users order food online from restaurants and have the food delivered.

"Across the board, restaurant and delivery drivers are dealing with an influx of orders," Allie Mack, a spokeswoman for the company said in an email.

Not only that, but people seem to appreciate the drivers more, with Mack saying that during the Polar Vortex earlier this month, tipping was up by double digits in Detroit, Cleveland, Minneapolis and Chicago. And, for some reason, deliveries of buffalo chicken sandwiches jumped 37 percent.

"You figure people are probably being more generous to their drivers because their drivers are the ones braving the conditions while you're on your couch in your pajamas," Mack said.

Chicago cabdriver Kumar Patel said the cold translates into bigger tips for him too.

For Obama, an address focused on what's achievable

WASHINGTON (AP)—No longer about bold ambitions, this year's State of the Union address will focus more on what's actually achievable.

For the White House, that dose of realism is aimed at avoiding a repeat of 2013, when a long list of unfulfilled policy goals—including gun control and an immigration overhaul—dragged President Barack Obama down like an anchor. Tuesday's prime-time address will focus instead on redefining success for Obama—not by what he can jam through Congress but rather by what he can accomplish through his own presidential powers.

He is expected to announce executive actions on job train-

ing, retirement security and help for the long-term unemployed in finding work. All are part of the White House focus this year on boosting economic mobility and narrowing the income gap between the wealthy and the poor.

Another action Obama is expected to announce is the creation of a new retirement savings plan geared toward workers whose employers don't currently offer such plans. Because commercial retirement accounts often have fees or high minimum deposits that are onerous for low-wage workers, this program would allow first-time savers to start building up savings in Treasury bonds. Once the savings grew large enough, a worker could convert the ac-

count into a traditional IRA, according to two people who have discussed the proposal with the administration. Those people weren't authorized to discuss it ahead of the announcement and insisted on anonymity.

"Tomorrow night, it's time to restore opportunity for all," Obama said Monday on the video-sharing site Vine, part of the White House's broad social media promotion of the speech.

"I think the way we have to think about this year is we have a divided government," White House senior adviser Dan Pfeiffer said. "The Republican Congress is not going to rubber-stamp the president's agenda. The president is not going to sign the Republi-

can Congress' agenda."

The address, delivered before a joint session of Congress and millions of Americans watching on television and the Internet, typically garners a president his largest audience of the year. It also provides perhaps his best opportunity to try to persuade skeptical Americans that he still wields substantial power in Washington, even if he can't break through a divided Congress.

The risk for Obama in centering his agenda on his own executive actions is that those directives often are more limited in scope than legislation that requires congressional approval. And that raises questions about how much impact he can have.

GOP tries to school candidates to avoid disaster



In this combination of file photos are U.S. Senate candidates, from left: Shane Osborn, Nebraska; Matt Whitaker, Iowa, and Terri Lynn Land, Michigan.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Having watched several promising campaigns collapse in 2012 after candidates made catastrophic mistakes, national Republican leaders are leaving nothing to chance as they prepare for this year's midterm elections.

They're summoning contenders—especially those who seem inexperienced, unpredictable or inclined to provocative opinions—to first-of-a-kind training at the GOP's Senate campaign headquarters to learn, in part, what not to say and how not to say it.

It's a delicate intervention, but one deemed essential by officials smarting from campaign debacles that cost the GOP winnable races, including Senate seats in Missouri and Indiana, last time.

"Hopefully, everyone has paid attention to the huge blunders that were made," said Ari Fleischer, former top aide to President George W. Bush who helped draft a post-election analysis for the Republican National Committee after the 2012 campaign. "You can't buy

enough ads to cover up a candidate who is flawed."

The two-day sessions, which feature top experts in communications and public policy, have brought in more than a dozen Senate and about 50 House candidates. The GOP's hopes for winning a Senate majority this year depend on picking up six seats, some by candidates who are less seasoned.

In addition to the policy briefings and campaign advice that both parties have long offered, the candidates are counseled specifically on navigating trouble-prone issues related to women.

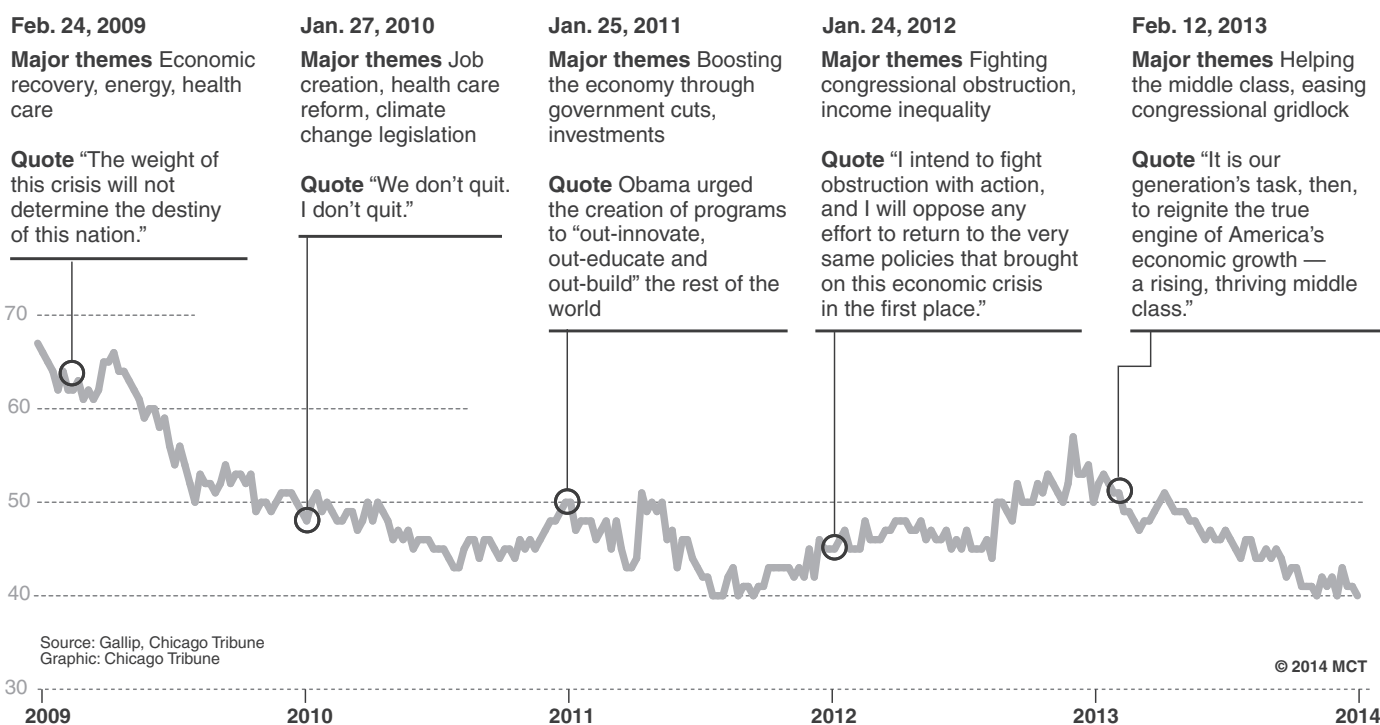
Front-running Republican Senate candidates Todd Akin in Missouri and Richard Mourdock in Indiana self-destructed in 2012 after making controversial comments about pregnancy and abortion. Akin asserted that a woman's body was equipped to fight off pregnancy in cases of "legitimate rape." Mourdock said that in pregnancies, "Even when life begins in that horrible situation of rape, it is something God intended to happen."

Obama and the State of the Union

The primary themes of President Barack Obama's State of the Union addresses have varied, but the economy has been a major part of all the speeches. That will likely be the case again this year.

Obama's approval rating with highlights of his State of the Union addresses

Weekly percentage based on a three-day rolling average



Asia

US protests Afghanistan process to release 'dangerous' prisoners

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The Afghan government has begun the process of releasing three dozen prisoners despite U.S. protests that they are highly dangerous, officials said Monday, the latest sign of deteriorating relations between the two countries ahead of the year-end withdrawal of most international combat troops.

The move to release the prisoners prompted an angry denunciation from the U.S. military, which said the 37 prisoners slated for release are "dangerous insurgents who have Afghan blood on their hands" with strong evidence against them to merit further prosecution or investigation—

from DNA linking them to roadside bombs to explosives residue on their clothing.

President Hamid Karzai's government has rebuffed the U.S. claims that the men pose a serious risk of returning to violence if they're released, and used the issue to test his government's relationship with the U.S. as the two sides struggle over the question of a post-2014 foreign presence.

Karzai has stepped up his anti-American rhetoric since refusing to sign an agreement that would allow thousands of American soldiers to stay in the country after the end of the NATO-led combat mission. Instead, he has said he wants

to wait to sign until after the country elects his successor in Afghanistan's April 5 presidential election.

The Obama administration is pressing him to change his mind, warning that Afghan forces still need training to fight a resilient insurgency.

Earlier this month, Karzai ordered the release of all but 16 of a group of 88 inmates at the Parwan Detention Facility that the U.S. says pose a threat to Afghanistan and the region. He recently criticized the facility, referring to it as a "Taliban-producing factory" where he said innocent Afghans are tortured into hating their country.

Overcrowded Indian boat may have hit rock; 21 dead



A survivor of a boat capsized off India's remote Andaman and Nicobar islands, center, gets emotional upon seeing relatives as he arrives at the airport in Chennai, India, Monday, Jan. 27, 2014.

NEW DELHI (AP)—An overcrowded tourist boat that capsized off India's remote Andaman and Nicobar islands, killing at least 21 people, may have hit a rock before it went down, police said Monday.

Most of the victims drowned when the boat capsized Sunday about 300 feet (100 yards) from shore off the string of tropical Indian Ocean islands, according to Mohammed Rafique, a police officer in Port Blair.

Rescuers pulled 29 survivors out of the water and were still searching for one missing person. Authorities launched an investigation into the accident, including reports that there were no life jackets on board and that the vessel's capacity was about 25 people but it was carrying 50, according to government officials.

Police detained three people, including the boat's owner, according to unidentified officials

cited by the Press Trust of India news agency.

The bodies of the victims were being returned to their home states in India, PTI reported.

India's president released a statement expressing "shock and grief" over the accident.

Boating accidents are common in India because many ferries are poorly built and are often overcrowded, and there is little regard for safety regulations.

Thai police suspect Tata executive killed himself

BANGKOK (AP)—Thai police said Monday they suspect a top British executive at Indian automotive giant Tata Motors committed suicide in a fall from a luxury hotel in Bangkok. Managing Director Karl Slym died Sunday while in Thailand to attend a board meeting of the company's Thai affiliate. Maj. Gen. Pornchai Suteerakhun, head of the Thai police forensic unit, said Slym died after falling from his room on the hotel's 22nd floor. Police Lt. Somyot Bunnakaew said investigators believe Slym may have killed himself because of a suicide note left in the room referring to domestic problems. He said the letter was being analyzed to confirm it was written by Slym.

World

Ukraine president ready to scrap new anti-protest law

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukraine's beleaguered president on Monday agreed to scrap harsh anti-protest laws that set off a wave of clashes between protesters and police over the past week, a potentially substantial concession to the opposition that stopped short of meeting all of its demands.

In a possibly major sticking point, a proposed amnesty for arrested protesters would not be offered unless demonstrators stopped occupying buildings and ended their round-the-clock protests and tent camp on Kiev's central Independence Square, according to a statement by Justice Minister Elena Lukash on the presidential website.

President Viktor Yanukovich has been under increasing pressure since he pushed the tough laws through parliament, setting off clashes and protests in other parts of the country in a sharp escalation of tensions after weeks

Protests spread

Violence in Ukraine over the government's rejection of a planned treaty with the EU continues to escalate and spread. Cities with protests:



Nov. 2013 President Viktor Yanukovich reverses decision to sign deal that would strengthen ties with EU; protests begin in Kiev

Dec. 17 Russia agrees to buy Ukrainian government bonds and slash the price of gas it sells to the country

Jan. 22, 2014 Two protesters die during clashes in Kiev; protests spread to other cities

Jan. 25 Yanukovich offers senior jobs to the opposition, including that of prime minister, but these are rejected

Source: BBC

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of mostly peaceful protests over his rejection of a deal to deepen ties with the 28-nation European Union.

At a meeting between top opposition figures and Yanukovich late Monday "a political decision was made on scrapping the laws of Jan. 16, which aroused much discussion," Lukash said.

She made no mention of a key opposition demand—that Yanukovich resign.

One of the opposition figures, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, turned down the prime minister's job, which Yanukovich had offered him on Saturday, the statement said.

Eliminating the laws, which is likely to be done in a special parliament session Tuesday, appears to be a serious step back for the government. The session is also expected to include a discussion of government responsibility in the crisis, suggesting a cabinet reshuffle could be imminent.

Assad future blocks progress in Syria peace talks

GENEVA (AP)—The key issue of a transitional government to replace President Bashar Assad blocked any progress Monday in Syrian peace talks, described by one delegate as "a dialogue of the deaf."

The chief U.N. mediator expressed frustration over inflammatory public remarks by the two sides as he sought to identify some less-contentious issues in hopes of achieving any progress at all at the bargaining table.

But even the most modest attempts at confidence-building measures faltered—including humanitarian aid convoys to besieged parts of the central city of Homs and the release of detainees. Veteran mediator Lakhdar Brahimi somberly declared at the end of the day that

he had little to report.

"There are no miracles here," Brahimi said, adding that both sides nevertheless appeared to have the will to continue the discussions. Asked how he planned to bridge the enormous gap between the two sides, the veteran diplomat quipped: "Ideas, I'll take them with great pleasure."

The gulf between the two sides was on full display at a turbulent morning session in which the delegations from the opposition and the Syrian government faced off on the question of Assad's future.

The Western-backed Syrian National Coalition wants an interim replacement for Assad, reiterating at every opportunity that the stated goal of the peace

conference, agreed upon by international powers in preliminary talks in June, is to establish a transitional government with full executive powers.

But Assad, whose troops have a tenuous upper hand in Syria, has said he has no intention of stepping down and, on the contrary, may run again for president later this year. His delegates have capitalized on the ascendancy of Islamic militants, saying the priority at the peace conference was to find ways to combat terrorism.

"We came here with the intention of discussing a transitional governing body and they came with the intention of consecrating Bashar Assad's presence," said Rima Fleihan, a member of the coalition's negotiating team.

Scientists find ancient plague DNA in teeth

LONDON (AP)—Scientists say two of the deadliest pandemics in history were caused by strains of the same plague and warn that new versions of the bacteria could spark future outbreaks.

Researchers found tiny bits of DNA in the teeth of two German victims killed by the Justinian plague about 1,500 years ago. With those fragments, they reconstructed the genome of the oldest bacteria known.

They concluded the Justinian plague was caused by a strain of *Yersinia pestis*, the same pathogen responsible

for the Black Death that struck medieval Europe. The study was published online Tuesday in the journal, *Lancet Infectious Diseases*.

The two plagues packed quite a punch. The Justinian Plague is thought to have wiped out half the globe as it spread across Asia, North Africa, the Middle East and Europe. And the Black Death killed about 50 million Europeans in just four years during the 14th century.

"What this shows is that the plague jumped into humans on several different occasions and has gone on a rampage,"

said Tom Gilbert, a professor at the Natural History Museum of Denmark who wrote an accompanying commentary. "That shows the jump is not that difficult to make and wasn't a wild fluke."

The plague is usually spread to humans by rodents whose fleas carry the bacteria.

"Humans are infringing on rodents' territory, so it's only a matter of time before we get more exposure to them," Gilbert said.

Still, he and other experts doubted a modern plague epidemic would be as devastating.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Police: Australian boy likely killed by crocodile

DARWIN, Australia (AP)—Rangers searching for a 12-year-old boy snatched by a crocodile in northern Australia have recovered evidence strongly suggesting the boy died in the attack. Officials have been searching by land, sea and air for the boy since he was taken by the crocodile as he swam in a water hole in a popular Outback tourist destination on Sunday. One of the boy's friends was mauled in the attack. Northern Territory Police Acting Commander Michael White said evidence found Tuesday "strongly indicates" the boy died from the attack. White wouldn't say what the evidence was, but said DNA testing will be conducted to confirm the identification.

Focus

WASHINGTON (AP)—From the White House to the Vatican to the business elite in Davos, Switzerland, one issue keeps seizing the agenda: the growing gap between the very wealthy and everyone else.

It's "the defining challenge of our time," says President Barack Obama, who will spotlight the issue in his State of the Union address Tuesday night. A Gallup poll finds two-thirds of Americans are unhappy with the nation's distribution of wealth. Experts say it may be slowing the economy.

Why has the issue suddenly galvanized attention? Here are questions and answers about the wealth gap—what it is and why it matters.

Q. Hasn't there always been a wide gulf between the richest people and the poorest?

A. Yes. What's new is the widening gap between the wealthiest and everyone else. Three decades ago, Americans' income tended to grow at roughly similar rates, no matter how much you made. But since roughly 1980, income has grown most for the top earners. For the poorest 20 percent of families, it's dropped. Incomes for the highest-earning 1 percent of Americans soared 31 percent from 2009 through 2012, after adjusting for inflation, according to data compiled by Emmanuel Saez, an economist at University of California, Berkeley. For the rest of us, it inched up an average of 0.4 percent. In 17 of 22 developed countries, income disparity widened in the past two decades, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Q. So who are the top 1 percent in income?

A. They're bankers, lawyers, hedge fund managers, founders of successful companies, entertainers, senior managers and others. One trend: Corporate executives, doctors, and farmers made up smaller shares of the top 1 percent in 2005 than in 1979. By contrast, the proportion of the wealthiest who work in the financial and real estate industries has doubled. The top 1 percent earned at least \$394,000 in 2012. Through most of the post-World War II era, the top 1 percent earned about 10 percent of all income. By 2007, that figure had jumped to 23.5 percent, the most since 1928. As of 2012, it was 22.5 percent.

Q. How has the middle class fared?

A. Not well. Median household income peaked in 1999 at \$56,080, adjusted for inflation. It fell to \$51,017 by 2012. The percentage of American households with income within 50 percent of the median—one way of measuring the middle class—fell from 50 percent in 1970 to 42 percent in 2010.

Q. Does it matter if some people are much richer than others?

A. Most economists say some inequality is needed to reward hard work, talent and innovation. But a wealth gap that's too wide is usually unhealthy. It can slow economic growth, in part because richer Americans save more of their income than do others. Pay concentrated at the top is less likely to be spent.

It can also trigger reckless borrowing. Before the 2008 financial crisis, middle class households struggled to

WEALTH GAP:

A guide to what it is, why it matters



In this Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2013, file photo, a destitute man sleeps on the sidewalk under a holiday window at Blanc de Chine in New York.

keep up their spending even as their pay stagnated. To do so, they piled up debt. Swelling debt helped inflate the housing bubble and ignite the financial crisis. Experts note that the Great Depression and the Great Recession were both preceded by surging income gaps and heedless borrowing by middle class Americans.

Q. Has it become harder for someone born poor to become rich?

A. The evidence is mixed. Countries that have more equal income distributions, such as Sweden and other Scandinavian countries, tend to enjoy more social mobility. But a study released last week found that the United States isn't any less mobile than it was in the 1970s. A child born in the poorest 20 percent of families in 1986 had a 9 percent chance of reaching the top 20 percent as an adult, the study found—roughly the same odds as in 1971.

Other research has shown that the United States isn't as socially mobile as once thought. In a study of 22 countries, economist Miles Corak of the University of Ottawa found that the United States ranked 15th in social mobility. Only Italy and the Britain among wealthy countries ranked lower. By some measures, children in the United States are as likely to inherit their par-

ents' economic status as their height.

Q. So why has income inequality worsened?

A. There's no simple answer. Globalization has created "superstars" and

concentrated pay among corporate executives, Wall Street traders, popular entertainers and other financial elite. At the same time, factory workers

now compete with 3 billion people in China, India, eastern Europe and elsewhere who weren't working for multinational corporations 20 years ago. Many now make products for Apple, Intel, General Motors and others at low wages. This has depressed middle-class pay. And pay has risen much faster for college graduates than for high-school graduates. These trends have contributed to a "hollowed out" labor market, with more jobs at the higher and lower ends of the pay scale and fewer in the middle.

Social factors contribute, too. Single-parent families are more likely to be poor than other families and less likely to ascend the income ladder. Finally, men and women with college degrees and high pay are more likely to marry each other and amplify income gaps.

Q. Does wealth distribution follow a similar pattern?

A. It's even more pronounced. A Pew Research Center study found that the wealthiest 7 percent of households grew 28 percent richer from 2009 through 2011. For the bottom 93 percent, collective wealth fell 4 percent. That's largely because wealthy households

own far more stocks and other financial assets than others. By contrast, whatever wealth middle-class Americans have is mainly in their home equity.

Since the Great Recession ended, stock-market averages have soared, setting records in 2013. Home values, though, remain far below their peaks reached in 2006. That divergence has benefited the richest and left others struggling.

Q. Where do the 1 percent live?

A. Investor Warren Buffett famously lives in Omaha, Neb. Les Wexner, whose fashion empire includes Victoria's Secret, is an Ohioan. But the wealthy mainly cluster around the largest cities. Of the 515 U.S. billionaires, 96 live around New York City, according to the intelligence firm Wealth-X. Los Angeles is home to 22, Chicago 21, San Francisco 20, Houston 14. Millionaires are more widely dispersed. Maryland has the highest concentration. Of all its households, 7.7 percent have \$1 million or more in financial assets. New Jersey, Connecticut, Hawaii and Alaska have the next-highest concentrations, according to a report from Phoenix Marketing International.

Q. Is anything being done to narrow the wealth gap?

A. President Barack Obama has made the issue a priority and wants the government to act to reduce the disparities. The president managed to restore higher tax rates on incomes above \$398,350 last year. And he's pushed other steps that might narrow the gap slightly, such as a higher minimum wage. But congressional Republicans say those steps could hurt economic growth and have resisted most such measures.

Q. Is everyone concerned about the wealth gap?

A. Some conservative economists question much of the data. They note, for example, that Saez's figures don't include government benefits, such as Social Security or food stamps, or employer payments for health insurance, that benefit the less-than-rich. Yet the Congressional Budget Office did include government benefits and the effect of taxes in its own study and still found a sizable gap: For the top 1 percent, income jumped 275 percent, adjusted for inflation, from 1979 to 2007. For the middle 60 percent of Americans, it grew less than 40 percent.

Q. So what do experts say is the best way to shrink the wealth gap?

A. Most ideas break down along political lines. Liberal economists tend to support a higher minimum wage, greater access to pre-school and college education and more spending on roads, bridges and other infrastructure to help generate good-paying jobs. Most favor higher taxes on the wealthy to pay for such programs.

Conservatives tend to back tax cuts, government deregulation and other steps they say will accelerate hiring and growth and raise living standards for everyone. They tend to focus on the need to advance income mobility.

In a speech this month, Florida Republican Sen. Marco Rubio acknowledged the enormous pay disparity between a fast food company's cashier and its CEO.

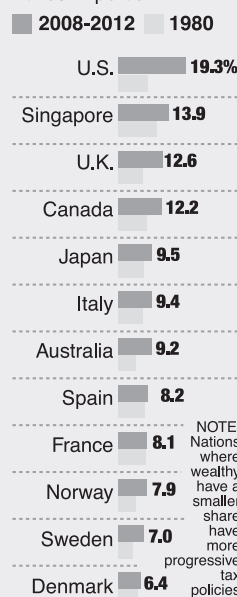
"The problem we face is not simply the gap in pay between them, but rather that too many of those cashiers are stuck in the same job for years on end," Rubio said.

The rich get richer

Inequality is widening in both developed and developing nations. According to a new report, the world's 85 richest people now own nearly half the world's wealth.

Growing concentration of wealth in affluent nations

Share of national wealth going to the richest 1 percent

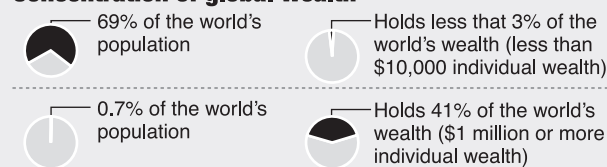


Rising inequality in emerging nations

In most of the so-called BRICS, the poor have a smaller share of the national income than they did 20 years ago; share of national income held by the top 10 percent and the bottom 40 percent



Concentration of global wealth



Sources: Oxfam, World Bank Poverty and Equality Database, F. Alvaredo, A. B. Atkinson, T. Piketty and E. Saez, (2013) "The World Top Incomes Database", <http://topincomes.g-mond.parisschoolofeconomics.eu/>
Graphic: Pat Carr

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Campus Life

ESFDB kicks off Catholic Schools Week

Luta's Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja joined Mount Carmel School and other Catholic schools around the country in the observance of National Catholic Schools Week 2014.

On Jan. 21, 2014, Gov. Eloy Inos signed a proclamation declaring Jan. 26 to Feb. 1 as Catholic Schools Week.

This year's theme, "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service," focuses on the principles of a Catholic education and celebrating the uniqueness of Catholic schools.

"Every school is a place of learning including public schools. But the Catholic tradition in valuing learning and in valuing knowledge goes very deep and is unique. Catholic Schools Week is about celebrating the unique vision Catholic schools have for the child," said ESFDB administrator/principal Carmen H. Atalig.

"Catholic schools want their students to discover who they are themselves and to grow in confidence in the process of learning all the different subjects," she said. "In addition, the weeklong celebration gives us a moment to pause and reflect on the mission of Catholic education to provide a Christ-centered education that is academically excellent and emphasizes the formation of the whole person."

According to this year's ESFDB Catholic Schools Week chair Mary Rose S. Lucero, "Our Catholic schools view Catholic Schools Week as an opportunity to affirm the dedication of our administrator, educators, board of directors, parents, parish priest, and the Luta Parish community as they develop future leaders who understand their faith-filled responsibility for promoting the common good."

"The annual celebration provides an opportunity to showcase the hallmarks of Catholic education through faith formation, academic achievement, and commitment to service," Lucero added.

The school's liturgy coordinator, Florinda Chavez, said: "We are blessed to work with the wonderful children in our care. We are so fortunate to be able to teach the students about God's love and have the opportunity to share that love with the families as well. We are privileged to be a part of such a great Luta community of faith, knowledge, and service."

"May our parish community recognize and value the contribution of Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja and continue to support the only Catholic school [on] Luta, as we continue to provide quality Catholic education to our young children," added Chavez.

ESFDB board president



Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja students display their Catholic Schools Week banner.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Edward C. Maratita Jr. said: "What is unique in what we do in ESFDB is the vision we have for the child. We see every child that comes to our school as made in the image of God and as somebody who is a

child of God."

"Also, Catholic Schools Week is about strengthening relationships between all those that have a stake in our schools; administration, faculty and staff, board of directors, parents,

students, priests, parishioners, and members of the local community, by showcasing what happens in our schools every day," Maratita added.

Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja represents an invest-

ment in Luta's future leaders, and the sacrifices made by Catholic school parents. Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja teaches all the things that make the Luta community the great place it is—a commu-

nity of faith, a community of knowledge, and a community of service.

Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja kicked off Catholic Schools Week last Sunday with a Mass at the San Francisco de Borja Church.

Even with the heavy downpour, the activities continued Monday with a roadside waving at Pinatang Park and Bank of Guam roadside area in Songsong Village.

The activities will continue for the week with card making on Jan. 28, recognizing educational tax credit and individual donors; Jan. 29, serenade at the Rota Man'amko Center and house-to-house visit to the elderly; and Jan. 30, CSW culmination, showcasing the students' God-given talents.

Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja administration, faculty, and students would like to extend their appreciation to all donors, benefactors, ESFDB board of directors, ESFDB Parent Teacher Association, parents, guardians, and Rev. Fr. Charlie Borja. (ESFDB)

ESFDB names CSW drawing and essay contest winners

Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja students recently participated in a drawing and essay contest as part of the celebration of Catholic Schools Week 2014.

The theme "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service" was used for the contest.

"This was a chance for the students to showcase their talents in drawing and essay writing skills, and also show appreciation to the many people who make up the school and the Luta community," said administrator/principal Carmen H. Atalig.

The students participated in three categories. Category 1 was for the Kindergarten to 1st grade level. Category 2 involved the 2nd to 5th grade, while the Essay Category was for the 6th to 8th grade students. The winners for Category 1 drawing contest were Edward U. Maratita, III (Kinder), first place; Star C. Mendiola (1st grade), second place; and Titus Hugh T. Hocog (1st grade), third place.

Category 2 winners for the drawing contest are Agatha Marie B. Gascon (2nd grade), first place; Kaitlyn Amber I. Balgoa (3rd grade), second place; and John Kent DLC. Clitar (3rd grade), third place.

In the essay contest, the winners were Angelica S. Lucero (8th grade), first place; Tyra Reese A. Calvo (7th grade), and Marnecia Hope B. Hocog (8th grade), third place.

"I was surprised and did not expect to win," said second grader Agatha Gascon about her win. "This was my first time and I am happy."



Category 1 drawing contest winners. From left, Star C. Mendiola, Edward U. Maratita, III, and Titus Hugh T. Hocog.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Essay contest winners. From left, Tyra Reese A. Calvo, Angelica S. Lucero, and Marnecia Hope B. Hocog.

"It was pretty unexpected. I feel overwhelmed," said eighth grade student Angelica Lucero.

Board president Edward C. Maratita Jr. said, "The goal of the contest is to encourage the students to think into the role and importance of Catholic Schools Week, as many of them illustrated in their drawings and essays. Therefore, their understanding and importance of Catholic Schools Week or Catholic education is a valuable reward."

Congratulations to the winners and the participants of the drawing and essay contest.

The event was sponsored by the Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja board of directors. The cash and in-kind donations were donated by the ESFDB board of directors, the Pacific Regional Training Institute/Child, Youth, and School Services management and staff of Guam, Delta Air Lines-Guam, Honolulu Federal Credit Union (Hawaii), Paul and Kendra Tanaka (Hawaii), and Maj. Jon Takamura (Hawaii).

The administration, faculty, and staff would like to extend their appreciation to the judges, donors, and sponsors for a successful Catholic Schools Week drawing and essay contest event. (ESFDB)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Category 2 drawing contest winners. From left, Kaitlyn I. Balgoa, John Kent Clitar, and Agatha Marie B. Gascon.

Life & Style

Grammy win for Daft Punk boosts French pride

PARIS (AP)—They're helmeted, mute and mysterious, and they're suddenly the pride of France.

Duo Daft Punk did something no other French music group has done: Brought home four Grammy Awards in one night.

Congratulations poured in Monday from French media, tweeters and bloggers—and even the U.S. Embassy in Paris. “See, France is capable of winning!” said commentator Jean-Jacques Bourdin on BFM-TV.

The multiple wins for the electronic music pioneers Sunday night were a rare bit of good news in France amid bleak reports on unemployment (stuck around 11 percent) and the president's personal life (complicated).

The men behind the masks, Guy-Manuel de Homem-Christo and Thomas Bangalter, kept their French accents carefully concealed at the Grammys. The two, who only appear in public behind helmets, left it to Pharrell Williams to accept their awards.

While those in the French masses celebrate Daft Punk's repeated trips to the podium at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, French officialdom has been strangely silent. Daft Punk's work didn't get a sin-



Pharrell Williams, second from left, and Daft Punk accept the award for record of the year at the 56th annual Grammy Awards at Staples Center on Sunday, Jan. 26, 2014, in Los Angeles.

gle nomination for the 2013 French music awards Victoire de la musique.

Perhaps that's because, as critic Pierre Siankowski put it, “We have a problem in France with the mainstream.” Something as

universally popular as the never-get-it-out-of-your-head “Get Lucky” isn't seen as “real art.”

That wasn't a concern for the Recording Academy voters, who handed Daft Punk and Williams the trophy in every cat-

egory they were nominated in at the Grammy Awards: Album of the year for “Random Access Memories.” Record of the year for funk-electronic anthem “Get Lucky.” Best pop duo or group performance. And best dance or

electronica album.

“Random Access Memories” also won for non-classical engineered album, an award that went to their engineer.

Daft Punk, produced by Columbia Records in the U.S.,

broke into the global sound consciousness with their 1997 album “Homework” and its hit “Around the World.” They went on to win Grammys in 2007 for best dance recording and best electronic dance album.

Then, they reached for something radical: live instruments. Their combination of real musicians, R&B rhythms and electronic expertise is seen as the key to the success of “Random Access Memories.”

Siankowski, the chief editor at pop culture weekly *Les Inrockuptibles*, isn't afraid to be a fan, praising them for “intelligent music ... that goes against the grain.”

And something about those helmets all over French TV on Monday looked familiar.

Henri Guaino, speechwriter for ex-President Nicolas Sarkozy, couldn't resist drawing a parallel with the helmeted man pictured in a gossip magazine this month sneaking out of the presidential palace on a motorcycle to meet his actress paramour.

The magazine says the man was President Francois Hollande, a claim neither he nor the actress has denied. Guaino quipped on BFM that the images provided “good publicity” for Daft Punk.

Macklemore says Lamar ‘robbed’ at Grammy Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Everyone felt sorry for Kendrick Lamar after the dazzling young rapper was shut out at the Grammy Awards—even Macklemore, the guy who beat him head-to-head in several categories.

Macklemore sent Lamar an apologetic text after winning in the best rap album category, one of two discussion-worthy moments the Seattle rapper engineered Sunday night. That was one of four awards for best new artist Macklemore & Ryan Lewis, and the one that sparked the most grumbling.

“You got robbed,” Macklemore wrote in a text to Lamar that he later posted on Instagram. “I wanted you to win. You should have. It's weird and sucks that I robbed you.”

It was a unique moment in Grammy history—almost as unique as Macklemore's other moment: the mass on-air wedding that included same-sex couples performed during the duo's rendition of gay-rights anthem “Same Love.”

Macklemore, whose real name is Ben Haggerty, has made no secret of his opinion in the best rap album category, declaring early on that he felt Lamar's “good kid, m.A.A.d. city” should win best rap album over his own record “The Heist.” Drake, Jay Z and Kanye West also were nominated in



Macklemore performs “Same Love” on stage at the 56th annual Grammy Awards at Staples Center on Sunday, Jan. 26, 2014, in Los Angeles.

the category, but the hip-hop community seemed to throw its hopes behind Lamar, a 26-year-old Compton native and Dr. Dre protege who has deep respect from his peers because of his raw talent, verbal abilities and cinematic vision.

Haggerty's publicist said the Seattle rapper was unavailable to discuss his text Monday morning, but he had explained his feelings in an interview with *The Associated Press* last week.

“I think first and foremost we should absolutely be in the rap category,” Haggerty said. “I think we should be nominated. I think we could have one of the best rap albums of this year that

we're talking about in terms of the Grammys. I think in terms of a rap album, I think Kendrick should win it. I think there's many other categories that we're nominated in that I would love to take home a Grammy ... but in terms of that one, I feel it should go to Kendrick.”

He also addressed the tear-inducing wedding in his Instagram post: “And to play Same Love on that platform was a career highlight. The greatest honor of all. That's what this is about. Progress and art.”

The performance/wedding included Queen Latifah officiating for 33 couples and an appearance by Madonna, and

played out in front of 28.5 million viewers, the second largest television audience since 1993, according to preliminary Nielsen Company ratings. It brought tears to the eyes of not only participants but also stars like Keith Urban and Katy Perry, who were on their feet for the emotional moment.

“It's just beyond, it's the pinnacle, it's the apex,” producer Lewis said afterward of the night. “So to be up here and more importantly to be able to celebrate ‘Same Love’ and have the marriages onstage—my sister getting married to-night as well—was phenomenal. So, amazing.”

DiCamillo wins Newbery for best children's book

NEW YORK (AP)—Kate DiCamillo's “Flora & Ulysses,” a comic superhero tale featuring a deadly vacuum cleaner and a mighty squirrel, has won the John Newbery Medal for the year's best work of children's literature. Brian Floca won the Randolph Caldecott Medal for his illustrations in “Locomotive,” a story of the early years of train travel that Floca also wrote.

The awards, the most prestigious in children's publishing, were announced Monday by the American Library Association. DiCamillo, a popular and acclaimed author, won the Newbery a decade ago for “The Tales of Despereaux.” The Library of Congress recently named her National Ambassador for Young People's Literature.

“When they called this morning about the Newbery, I don't think I said anything that made any sense,” DiCamillo said in a telephone interview with *The Associated Press*. “I mostly just wept.”

A native of Philadelphia who now lives in Minneapo-

lis, the 49-year-old DiCamillo said the book's origins date back a few years. Her mother was dying and worried what would happen to her vacuum cleaner, which the author ended up inheriting. Around the same time, she noticed an ailing squirrel on her property

and was appalled when a friend suggested she whack the squirrel with a shovel and kill it.

“I started thinking about ways I could save the squirrel's life,” DiCamillo said.

The Caldecott winner, “Locomotive,” appeared on numerous lists for the best children's books of 2013. Floca's previous credits include illustrating the “Poppy” series by the Newbery-winning author Avi, the pen name for Edward Irving Wortis.

Floca, in a telephone interview, said he thought of a book on trains after he had completed a work in 2009 on the Apollo 11 space journey. One part of the research for “Locomotive” that surprised him: How colorful were the train engines of the 19th century.



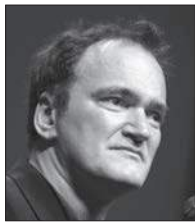
DiCamillo

Quentin Tarantino sues website over leaked script

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Quentin Tarantino sued the news and gossip website Gawker on Monday over a post that directed readers to a leaked copy of the Oscar-winning screenwriter's latest movie.

Tarantino's lawsuit accuses Gawker Media LLC of contributory copyright infringement for posting a link to the 146-page script for a planned film titled "The Hateful Eight" last week. A link to the script was posted on Gawker's Defamer blog and remained active Monday afternoon, despite demands from Tarantino's lawyers to take it down, the lawsuit states.

"There was nothing newsworthy or journalistic about Gawker Media facilitating and encouraging the public's violation of (Tarantino's) copyright in the screenplay, and its conduct will not shield Gawker Media from liability for their unlawful activity," the lawsuit states.



Tarantino

Gawker Editor-in-Chief John Cook said the company would fight the lawsuit and pointed out that the company was being sued for posting a link to the script, not the actual document.

"News of the fact that it existed on the Internet advanced a story that Tarantino himself had launched, and our publication of the link was a routine and unremarkable component of our job: making people aware of news and information about which they are curious," Cook said.

Tarantino is also suing an anonymous file-sharing site that

is linked in the post for copyright infringement. The contributory copyright infringement claim against Gawker contends the site's link allowed more people to find the script and infringe Tarantino's copyright by downloading and copying it.

The writer-director blasted the leak last week in an interview with Deadline.com and said he would abandon the project as a film. His lawsuit states he planned to publish the screenplay and that practice in the past has earned him hefty royalties and advances. His lawsuit states his damages as a result of the Gawker post will be more than \$1 million.

The leak of Tarantino's script was initially limited to a few people, his lawsuit states, and "The Hateful Eight" script did not appear online until after

Gawker posted an item encouraging anyone who had a copy to leak it to them.

Tarantino has won screenwriting two Academy Awards for his films "Pulp Fiction" and "Django Unchained." He also received best director Oscar nominations for "Pulp Fiction" and "Inglourious Basterds."

In October 2012, former wrestler and reality TV star Hulk Hogan sued Gawker after it posted a video of him having sex with the wife of his best friend. A Florida judge ordered the site to remove footage, story and comments about the video, but a state appellate court overturned that order Jan. 17 after determining the ruling violated the First Amendment.

Tarantino's lawsuit was first reported Monday by The Hollywood Reporter.

Billy Joel begins Madison Square Garden residency

NEW YORK (AP)—Billy Joel has begun his residency at Madison Square Garden with an energetic show that covers a wide swath of his musical catalog.

Joel and his band came out to thunderous applause Monday night and launched



Joel

into "Miami 1971," a song Joel wrote in the early 1970s about post-apocalyptic New York City. Throughout his set, he covered many of his signature songs, as well as a few more obscure tracks.

The Grammy Award-winning icon announced in December that he will perform at the famed New York City venue every month for as long as New Yorkers demand. He's set to perform sold-out shows until September with more being added later in the year. His next show is on Monday. His May 9 show commemorates his 65th birthday.

ing icon announced in December that he will perform at the famed New York City venue every month for as long as New Yorkers demand. He's set to perform sold-out shows until September with more being added later in the year. His next show is on Monday. His May 9 show commemorates his 65th birthday.

Mirren to be honored at British Academy awards

LONDON (AP)—Oscar-winning actress Helen Mirren, whose roles have ranged from a hard-nosed detective to Queen Elizabeth II, is to receive the British Academy Film Awards' highest honor.

The academy announced Monday that the 68-year-old will collect the BAFTA Fellowship at a London ceremony next month. Chairman John Willis said Mir-

ren was being honored "as one of the most outstanding actresses of her generation."

Previous fellowship recipients include Charlie Chaplin, Alfred Hitchcock, Elizabeth Taylor and Judi Dench. Mirren said that "to join that list of legendary names is overwhelming."



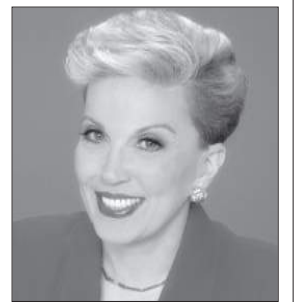
Mirren

Mirren was acclaimed for her starring role in the TV detective series "Prime Suspect" and won a best-actress Academy Award in 2006 for playing Britain's monarch in "The Queen."

The awards ceremony takes place Feb. 16 at London's Royal Opera House.

Husband's plumbing help results in leaky marriage

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my husband for 19 years. I offered his plumbing services to a married couple I work with. While he was fixing the problem, he became friendly with their adult daughter. She was lonely and I knew the family, so I wasn't concerned. Their relationship developed into something more and we separated. He ended their friendship and we reconciled.

Things were going great, but she continued to contact him. He has suddenly decided he can't live without her friendship and has decided to divorce me in order to continue it with her. He swears it's platonic, but something he can't live without. He hopes we can "still be friends!"

My question is how to move on from this. I have to see her enabling parents every day at work, and all of this happened under their roof. I feel betrayed on every level, especially by my husband, who was my best friend. Every aspect of my life, including my job, has been affected.

Have you any advice for moving past this without all of the anger I carry? I don't want to leave my job. It pays well and the commute is easy. But every time I see either one of the parents, I want to cry and scream.

P.S. My husband and I still live together as "roommates," as this is all very recent, and we haven't figured out our living arrangements yet.

WRONGED IN NEW ENGLAND

DEAR WRONGED: I do not for one minute believe that your husband's relationship with this woman is strictly platonic, and neither should you. Consult a lawyer now, while you and your husband are still "roommates." Make sure he doesn't hide any assets because, after 19 years of marriage, you should be entitled to a healthy share of them.

I agree that you have been wronged, but for now hang onto your temper. "Best friends" don't treat each other the way you have been treated. It may take the help of a religious adviser or licensed mental health professional for you to let go of your anger.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My friend of five years, "Gigi," has a heart of gold. However, we were raised differently. Gigi comes into my home when I'm not here and borrows whatever she needs without telling me. And whether I'm here or not, she feels free to go through everything—personal documents, my drawers and cabinets. Nothing is safe from her fingers or her eyes.

I have tolerated her behavior because when I tried talking to her about it, she became upset and started crying, which made her husband irate. I'm now dating a man who values his privacy, and my friend's behavior bothers him. He's friendly with Gigi's husband and deals with my friend only out of respect for her husband.

How can I get her to leave things alone without her having another meltdown? I don't want to lose a friend, but my boyfriend has a valid point that I happen to agree with.

INVADED IN TEXAS

DEAR INVADED: How does this woman get into your home when you're not there? Does she have a key? If she does, ask for it back or change your locks. And when you know Gigi is coming over, place anything you would prefer this nosy woman not peruse out of sight or under lock and key. That way, you can reclaim your privacy without being directly confrontational.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.



HERB ALPERT TOTEMS

This image released by Starpix shows three black bronze totem sculptures by musician-artist Herb Alpert on display at Dante Park on west 64th Street and Broadway, Thursday, Jan 23, 2014 in New York. The sculptures will be on display until April 15.

AP

Rosie O'Donnell coming back to 'View' as guest

NEW YORK (AP)—

Proving nothing is impossible in the world of daytime television,



O'Donnell

Rosie O'Donnell is coming back to "The View"—at least for a day.

The show announced Monday that O'Donnell will be a guest on the daytime gabfest on Feb. 7. O'Donnell's tenure as a panelist on the ABC show seven years ago was notably stormy. O'Donnell said after leaving that she had experienced something like post-traumatic stress disorder, and show creator Barbara Walters said she resented the way O'Donnell dumped on the show.

Walters said Monday that she has great affection for O'Donnell. She called O'Donnell a lively and engaging guest who is a part of the show's history.

This is Walters' last season on "The View."

Grammy Awards reach 28.5 million viewers

NEW YORK (AP)—The Grammy Awards are a hit with television viewers, with Nielsen reporting in its preliminary ratings that 28.5 million viewers tuned in to music's biggest night.

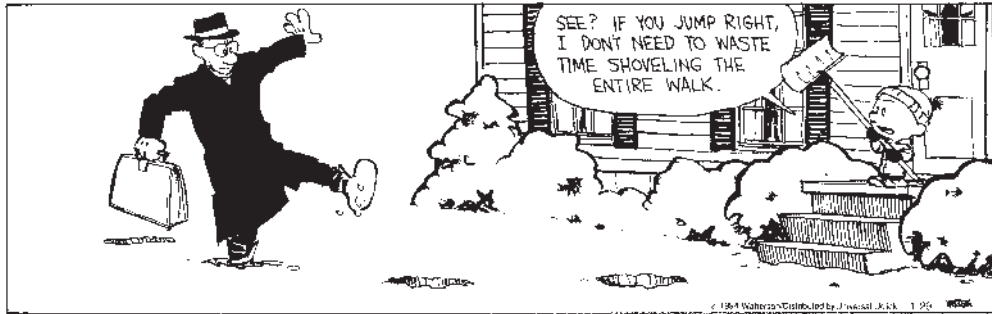
If the Nielsen Company's fast national rating holds up when a more complete report is issued later Monday, that would be a slight increase over last year's 28.4 million viewers and the second-biggest Grammy audience since 1993.

In the age of social media, awards shows and other live programs on broadcast TV have prospered. The Grammys reached nearly 40 million people in Adele's big year two years ago and hasn't been below 25 million since 2009.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	35 Slaughter of	59 Appear	11 Depend (on)
1 Burn some-what	36 Persian bigwigs	DOWN	16 "Pow!"
5 Weep	38 Hunk of gum	1 Money of Ghana	20 Meadow
8 "The Lion King"	40 Red or Black	2 Injury	23 Early hrs.
12 Relaxa-tion	41 Create	3 W/o delay	24 "Go, team!"
13 "— Sera Sera"	43 Prune	4 Change the chart	25 NYC's — Park
14 Sea eagle	45 Blend ahead of time	5 Multiplied by itself	27 "Holy mackerell!"
15 Scotch-based liqueur	47 Indecent	6 Overseas agree-ment?	29 Weeding need
17 Colorado resort	51 Continen-tal coin	7 Power-fully built	30 Simile center
18 Car named for an antelope	52 Trod	8 Figaro's place	32 Car polishing cloth
19 Not sturdy	54 Spore cases	9 Moun-taineer's grippers	34 Like a good knight
21 Standard	55 Scooted	10 Black-birds	37 Indulge at 17-
22 Business-review website	56 Emana-tion		39 Ill fate
23 S.A. nation	57 Jailer's janglers		42 Additional
26 Kitten's comment	58 Suitable		44 Former larvas
28 Honolulu "hi"			45 Height
31 Painter Chagall			46 Strata-gem
33 Mutt			48 Hint
			49 Present
			50 Dutch cheese
			53 Knock

Solution time: 21 mins.

S	C	A	B	A	M	P	G	A	G	A
A	U	T	O	Q	E	E	O	V	E	R
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O	D	I	N	I	M	P	E	V	I	L
W	A	N	G	E	Y	E	D	A	I	E

Yesterday's answer 1-29

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
18							19	20		
21							22			
23	24	25		26		27		28		29
31			32		33		34		35	
36				37		38		39		40
41				42		43		44		
45	46					47		48	49	50
51				52	53					
54				55				56		
57				58				59		

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sara Gilbert, 39; Heather Graham, 44; Oprah Winfrey, 60; Tom Selleck, 69.

Happy Birthday: You are best to be secretive about your whereabouts and transactions. Keep close tabs on health and financial matters that have the potential to spin out of control. Taking charge of whatever situation you come up against will help you avoid interference. Approach whatever job you are asked to do innovatively and with finesse, and you will excel. Your numbers are 2, 12, 20, 27, 34, 39, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Refrain from making changes without proper documentation or the go-ahead from whatever source necessary. Keep both your home and professional life free from complications. Follow the path that is presented, adding minor refinements as you push ahead. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Show enthusiasm and you will draw attention and advance. Deal with individuals directly and be precise about what you expect, want and are willing to give in return. A personal relationship will take a favorable turn due to your honesty and straightforward approach. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Present a plan and see what kind of interest you receive. Don't be disheartened by someone conservative. Focus on people looking for something fresh and you will be given an unusual opportunity. Make sure your idea is feasible before you share your plans. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Put more effort into your relationship with others. Whether you are doing business or mak-

ing a personal connection, you must ensure that you are giving and receiving as much as whoever else is involved. Compassion and understanding will help seal a deal. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Problems at home will develop if someone takes advantage of your generosity and good will. Step outside whatever position you find yourself in and you will get a clear picture of the situation and what you must do to make it work. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get out and have some fun. Show that you have a sense of humor and that you are just as capable of change and adaption as the next person. Romance will brighten your love life and secure your future. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Be careful when it comes to a matter of trust. Keep your secrets well hidden and guard against anyone trying to dig into your personal affairs. Your intuitive intelligence will not lead you astray. Proceed with caution. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Talk is cheap and with the information you gather, you will be able to make a substantial move forward. Add a little charm, mystery and intrigue into the mix, and you will capture interest and increase your popularity amongst your peers. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A bad transaction will have a ripple affect. Do your best to make up for any loss you have incurred by promoting something unique that you have developed. A change looks positive if you stick to what you do best. ***

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			9	5	7	4	6			
	1							7		
6					1				2	
9					8				5	
1	5			6	7	8			4	
7									1	
2									7	
	9				5				3	
		8	2	4	9	1				

Difficulty Level ★★

1/29

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	9	8	5	4	6	1	7	3
1	3	4	7	9	2	5	8	6
6	5	7	1	8	3	2	9	4
5	2	9	8	3	4	7	6	1
3	7	6	9	5	1	4	2	8
8	4	1	2	6	7	3	5	9
4	6	5	3	7	8	9	1	2
9	8	2	4	1	5	6	3	7
7	1	3	6	2	9	8	4	5

Difficulty Level ★★

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Avoid any sort of confrontation that can stand between you and financial goals. Anger is a waste of time. Put your energy where it counts and pursue your goals industriously. A personal partnership must not be allowed to cost you. ***



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): What you do for others will not go unnoticed. Ask questions, but don't be too eager to divulge personal information. Moderation will be necessary if you want to reach your goals without interference. Focus on getting things accomplished. ***



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Look past any obstacle you face. If you can see the big picture, you will be able to achieve your goals. Don't let negativity deter you from thinking big and embracing your dreams. Romance will brighten your day and your love life. ****

Birthday Baby: You are industrious, cautious and goal-oriented. You are observant and tactful.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter](https://twitter.com/eugenialast)/[facebook](https://facebook.com/eugenialast)/[linkedin](https://linkedin.com/company/eugenialast).

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

'DRAGON'S DEN' (Reality TV Show)

Solution: 5 letters

A	D	A	N	A	C	S	N	P	E	Q	U	I	T	Y
E	C	I	V	D	A	A	A	R	M	O	N	E	Y	S
S	A	L	E	S	D	E	M	O	S	A	K	P	D	R
N	S	L	A	E	D	D	E	P	I	R	E	E	A	S
O	H	E	N	N	A	I	D	S	A	Y	E	T	T	T
I	A	R	L	E	N	E	V	M	R	N	E	R	N	I
T	N	E	M	E	E	R	G	A	M	E	E	E	P	M
A	O	N	B	R	U	C	E	S	D	P	D	L	T	E
C	T	K	A	U	C	L	E	C	X	I	A	I	S	S
I	L	C	N	T	O	U	T	E	F	N	H	V	M	A
L	I	U	K	N	O	S	N	I	K	C	I	D	C	
P	H	B	I	E	C	R	O	X	O	N	J	N	A	W
P	C	V	V	E	C	H	T	W	O	R	G	R	O	
A	E	E	E	X	P	E	R	I	E	N	C	E	E	H
K	R	N	O	I	T	N	E	V	N	I	F	U	S	S

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Advice, Agreement, Applications, Arlene, Bank, Bruce, Buckner, Canada, Cash, Chilton, Concept, Confident, Croxon, Dares, David, Deals, Demos, Dianna, Dickinson, Equity, Experience, Experts, Fuss, Game, Growth, Ideas, Invention, Jim, Kevin O'Leary, Market, Money, Name, Needs, Out, Panels, Plan, Props, Rate, Revenues, Sales, Showcase, Team, Time, Triliving, Venture
Yesterday's Answer: Michelangelo
Treasury 12, 13, 14 or 15 can be purchased online at wonderword.universaljclick.com. (Contain 130 puzzles.)

Durant does it again as Thunder rally past Hawks



OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Kevin Durant played the fourth quarter Monday night with the intensity of an NBA Finals game.

Showing plenty of emotion down the stretch and scowling at the Atlanta bench on multiple occasions, Durant scored 41 points to rally the Oklahoma City Thunder past the Hawks 111-109 for their eighth straight victory.

The star forward hit the game-winning jumper with 1.5 seconds left, capping Oklahoma City's comeback from a 14-point deficit in the second half.

"I know we play a lot of games and a lot of people say January doesn't mean anything," Durant said. "But when you're playing this game with your heart and passion like we do, sometimes you've got to sit back and just enjoy it."

Durant scored 13 in the fourth quarter, including a 16-foot, step-back jumper with 25.5 seconds remaining that put the Thunder ahead for the first time since the opening 2 minutes. Paul Millsap tied it for Atlanta before Durant knocked down the decisive 12-footer while being guarded by DeMarre Carroll.

"Coach just drew it out for me and I had to make a play," Durant said. "It was an emotional game. It was up and down the whole game. My emotions were everywhere, so I just had to try to keep it together at the end of the game and make a play for my team."

Shelvin Mack tried to throw a pass to Millsap on the final play, but Thabo Sefolosha knocked it away. Millsap scored 23 points to lead the Hawks, who managed only one basket and two points in the final 3:50.

Oklahoma City is 6-0 at home this season when trailing going into the fourth quarter.

"I think that's a direct result from the competitive spirit we

have," Thunder coach Scott Brooks said.

Durant's 11-game streak of 30 or more points is the longest in the NBA since Tracy McGrady did it in 14 straight games in March and April 2003.

"He just hit some tough shots," Carroll said. "The shots were contested and he hit them. I just think we really lost the game on our own. We missed two open threes. We got the shots that we wanted. We just missed them. We've got to learn from that but it was a hard-fought game."

Durant had another efficient outing, shooting 15 of 25 from the field and 5 for 7 from 3-point range. During his streak, he has scored 40 or more five times, including a 54-point outing against Golden State.

Brooks said he has run out of superlatives to describe what Durant is doing.

"There's nothing more to say," Brooks said. "He's a special player. He's going to be an MVP candidate until he decides to retire. He's an amazing teammate, which I'm as proud of that, as he is as a player. He cares about the game. He cares about his team. He cares about Oklahoma City. He's just a great ambassador, not only to our team but the league and to the basketball world."

Reggie Jackson had 18 points for Oklahoma City (36-10), which takes the Western Conference's best record into a showdown Wednesday at Miami, the two-time defending NBA champion.

The Hawks led by 14 early in the third quarter and still held a double-digit advantage in the final minute of the period before Durant fueled the Thunder's rally. His layup with 2:11 left tied the score at 107.

Atlanta started missing shots as Oklahoma City ramped up its defensive effort, which had been lacking for 3 1/2 quarters.

"Our group really competed



Oklahoma City Thunder small forward Kevin Durant (35) shoots as Atlanta Hawks power forward Gustavo Ayon (14) defends during the third quarter of an NBA basketball game Monday, Jan. 27, 2014, in Oklahoma City.

tonight," Hawks coach Mike Budenholzer said. "I think their commitment to each other and their commitment to playing the way we want to play is excellent. Losing is very hard in this league and our guys are hurting."

The Hawks hit seven of their first nine 3-point attempts and led by as many as 14 points in the first half before settling for a 57-50 halftime lead.

Atlanta opened the second half with a 10-3 run to extend its lead to 14. Oklahoma City scored the next nine points and drew to 67-62 after a 3-pointer by Jackson, but Kyle Korver hit two 3-pointers as the Hawks scored eight of the next 10 points to rebuild a double-digit advantage at 75-64.

Jeremy Lamb scored 14 points for Oklahoma City. Serge Ibaka managed only

nine points but the NBA leader in blocked shots had a season-high six.

Seven Hawks reached double figures in scoring. Mike Scott had 16 points, including 11 in the fourth quarter. Carroll and Mack added 15 points each, while Korver scored 14 and Lou Williams and Dennis Schroder had 10 apiece.

Raptors 104, Nets 103

In New York, Patrick Patterson stole Deron Williams' inbounds pass and made the go-ahead jumper with 6 seconds left, and Toronto stopped a five-game winning streak by Brooklyn for the second time this month.

Brooklyn had a three-point lead with 17 seconds left behind Paul Pierce in his best game with the Nets, but John Salmons scored on a drive with 12 seconds remaining before Brooklyn took its last timeout to move the ball into the frontcourt.

Patterson stole the pass and fed Kyle Lowry, who got it back to Patterson for his jumper. Pierce was well off on a final attempt.

Lowry finished with 31 points and seven assists for the Raptors, who moved 2½ games ahead of the Nets for the Atlantic Division lead.

Pierce scored 33 points, making seven 3-pointers in a strong bounce-back performance after going just 2 for 10 in his emotional return to Boston on Sunday. He had the Nets in position to win after scoring their last nine points before Toronto stole it.

Timberwolves 95, Bulls 86

In Chicago, Kevin Love scored 31 points to lead Minnesota over Chicago.

Ronny Turiaf added 14 points off the bench for the Timberwolves, who snapped a seven-game losing streak to the Bulls and won for the fourth time in five games overall.

Carlos Boozer had 20 points and 14 rebounds for the Bulls, who played without ailing center Joakim Noah (illness) and guard Kirk Hinrich (strained right hamstring). D.J. Augustin added 19 points.

The Timberwolves were also missing their starting center. Nikola Pekovic exited with a sore right Achilles tendon midway through the first quarter. He had one point and one rebound in 6 minutes.

Suns 124, 76ers 113

In Philadelphia, Gerald Green scored 30 points and Goran Dragic had 24 to lead Phoenix past Philadelphia.

The Suns led all the way over the hapless 76ers, one night after rallying from an 18-point halftime deficit to win at Cleveland. Phoenix made its first six shots and 10

of 11, and raced to a 16-point lead. Green made his first seven shots until he botched a fast-break dunk.

Markieff Morris scored 13 points and had four blocks. The Suns blocked 12 shots.

Green and Dragic, Phoenix's starting backcourt, combined to make 19 of 25 shots and the Suns shot around 60 percent for most of the game.

Michael Carter-Williams had 22 points and 11 assists for the Sixers, who have lost 10 of 12.

Clippers 114, Bucks 86

In Milwaukee, Blake Griffin dominated the paint with 20 points, Jamal Crawford scored 25 and Los Angeles ended its seven-game road trip with a win over Milwaukee.

Darren Collison added 15 points and seven assists in place of Chris Paul for the Clippers, who improved to 9-3 while their star point recovers from a separated shoulder.

Los Angeles finished its trip 5-2, a franchise best for its annual sojourn away from Staples Center to make way for the Grammy Awards.

No better place these days than Milwaukee to end such a journey. The Bucks, an NBA-worst 8-36, were doomed by a 21-2 run in the second quarter.

Ersan Ilyasova had 16 points and eight rebounds for the Bucks.

Jazz 106, Kings 99

In Salt Lake City, Derrick Favors had 17 points and 12 rebounds, and Marvin Williams added 16 points and 11 rebounds to power Utah past depleted Sacramento.

Enes Kanter added 16 points and Jeremy Evans had 14 points and 10 rebounds as the Jazz took advantage of injuries that have left Sacramento without frontcourt starters DeMarcus Cousins and Rudy Gay for the past three games.

After the Jazz sent their starters to the bench with the game seemingly in hand, the Kings mounted an unlikely comeback that fell just short. Sacramento trimmed a 20-point lead to five in the final minute but came up empty on three of its final four possessions.

Jason Thompson scored a season-high 19 points and grabbed 11 rebounds for the Kings, who lost their fourth consecutive game. Derrick Williams had 17 points and 15 boards.

The Jazz set an NBA season high with 53 free throw attempts, topping the previous mark of 52 set by Houston against the Lakers on Nov. 7 and the Los Angeles Clippers against Brooklyn on Dec. 12. Utah went 12 for 25 at the line in the fourth quarter, allowing the Kings to make things interesting.

White Sox give manager Ventura extension



CHICAGO (AP)—As their win total plummeted last season, one thing remained steady for the Chicago White Sox—their faith in Robin Ventura.

The White Sox rewarded their manager with a multi-year contract extension Friday, announcing the move hours before their annual fan convention opened.

The terms were not disclosed. The extension comes after the White Sox dropped from second in the AL Central in Ventura's first season to last with 99 losses in his second year.

"You lose 99 games, there are going to be questions like that, about where this organi-

zation's headed and why they think the people in charge are the right people to get them through their end goal," general manager Rick Hahn said. "I would say we saw in 2012 and 2013 two extremes in terms of being a first-place club and being a club that was a disappointed in terms of performance. Throughout each of those extremes, Robin's leadership was unwavering."

Ventura's contract was set to expire after this year. He turned down an extension before the 2013 season, leading to speculation that he might not want to stick around much longer, but he insisted that wasn't the case. He wanted to give Hahn—then in his first season as GM—a chance to

work with him before making a long-term commitment.

"I just felt it was important for Rick to have a full year of doing the job, us working together," Ventura said. "Then, you have the ability and freedom to decide if I'm the right guy for the job. Nothing really changed in my mind of where I want to be and what I want to do. It's just more of it being his first time going through, I just wanted to make sure he had the ability and the freedom to do that. Now with the way last year went, the offseason, a lot of communication, a lot of talks of where we're headed, how we're going to do it—I'm excited to just keep going."

Hahn, who got bumped up from assistant GM in October

2012 to replace the promoted Ken Williams, called it a selfless act by Ventura.

"(It) allowed me the latitude to get comfortable," Hahn said. "It speaks to what kind of good man he is and actually makes a decision like this all the easier because of it."

A former All-Star third baseman, Ventura had never managed at any level when he replaced Ozzie Guillen. And the results his first season were promising.

The White Sox led the Central for much of 2012 before finishing second to Detroit with 85 wins, but there was a huge drop-off last year. Chicago wound up last in the division at 63-99, giving Ventura a 148-176 mark in two seasons.

Ex-players fear dementia based on unproven tests



CHICAGO

(AP)—After thousands of hits to his head and confronted with troubling symptoms, NFL Hall of Famer Joe DeLamielleure is sure he has the devastating brain disease CTE—even though the strongest scientific evidence says it can only be diagnosed in the dead.

He is certain because researchers trying to develop a test for CTE have essentially told him so, based on preliminary and unproven results.

To the 62-year-old DeLamielleure, the results are reassuring, offering a potential explanation for his sudden anger, depression and sleeplessness.

"They're absolutely positive I have it. You can see it on the X-ray," DeLamielleure said by telephone from his home in Charlotte, N.C.

The former Buffalo Bills offensive lineman and several other retired players were tested last year at UCLA by researchers who told them that changes seen on the scans are consistent with CTE. They were told their brains resemble those of retired players who killed themselves and were diagnosed with CTE during autopsies.

Dr. Julian Bailes, co-director of the NorthShore Neurological Institute in Evanston, Ill., is part of that research team - one of many groups racing to develop methods to diagnose and eventually treat CTE. Bailes and co-researchers at UCLA think they're leading the pack with a PET scan technique to detect abnormal brain buildup of a protein called tau. The test involves injecting a special chemical marker that is designed to bind to tau deposits in the brain; those areas light up on the imaging scans.

Their first results in living patients—five former NFL players, including DeLamielleure—were published last year. Research involving about a dozen more former athletes and others with multiple concussions is expected to be published later this year.

For many skeptics, including doctors, neuroscientists and researchers working on developing different detection methods, CTE testing in the living is too preliminary to make any kind of diagnosis and raises serious ethical questions. The disease is progressive and can't be cured.

Robert Stern, a scientist with Boston University's Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy, has a National Institutes of Health grant to do that kind of research; his team has examined more than 70 former NFL players so far. He said results so far are promising, and medical ethicists have been consulted for guidance on what to tell players about the findings.

"This is a very complex issue,



In this Jan. 23, 2014 photo, Pro Football Hall of Famer Joe DeLamielleure poses with his wife Gerri in their home in Charlotte, N.C.

because, No. 1, we don't truly know what many of the tests might mean. No. 2, this is a very vulnerable group of people who are scared to death about seeing their brothers have such significant cognitive and behavioral and mood changes," Stern said.

"There has been so much hype about this issue," he added. "The awareness and the attention to CTE has grown so tremendously in the last three to four years, but it has grown much, much faster than the science could possibly grow. We're still in the early infancy of our scientific knowledge of this disease."

Several former NFL stars have been diagnosed with the disease after death in recent years, including Junior Seau, Dave Duerson and Ray Easterling. All of them had troubling symptoms and committed suicide. Thousands of former players have sued the NFL, claiming the league withheld information about damaging effects of repeated head blows and concussions. DeLamielleure is among them, and he is also among those who have agreed to donate their brains to CTE researchers.

DeLamielleure estimates he endured more than 200,000 head blows during his 13-year NFL career—"dings" that made him see stars but didn't worry him much—until word started spreading about CTE. When he learned last year about the experimental test, DeLamielleure eagerly volunteered.

"When I read what happened to Junior Seau and Dave Duerson—they didn't sleep, had wild mood swings, and shot themselves in the chest—I wanted to know what I was going through before something happened," he said.

There is much that isn't known about CTE, including why some athletes with a history of head blows never get dementia or other debilitating symptoms, who is most prone and whether

genes or other health conditions increase the risk. Some of the symptoms occur in many people who never played contact sports, and in other diseases, including Alzheimer's.

And some of the symptoms in former NFL stars may have nothing to do with head blows.

Leonard Glantz, a bioethicist at Boston University's School of Public Health, said CTE tests in the living should be billed as experimental and that participants should understand

they are research subjects, not patients.

"You don't want anyone making predictions about what their life is going to be like based on these" experimental procedures, he said. He contends the results won't be valid unless they can be duplicated in large studies done by scientists with no financial stake in the research.

The test method used on DeLamielleure and others is owned by UCLA and licensed to TauMark LLC, a company

in Wheeling, W.Va. UCLA researcher Dr. Gary Small has a financial interest in the company, a UCLA spokeswoman said.

The test is not commercially available but it likely will be "in the near future," the company's website says. Company representatives did not return calls and emails seeking more information.

DeLamielleure said he wasn't told about UCLA's financial stake, but it doesn't surprise him.

Bailes said he worked with TauMark previously but has no financial ties to the company. He said "it's ludicrous" to imply that it's unethical for researchers to have a financial interest in drugs or procedures they develop.

He acknowledged that the tau test results need to be replicated, but added, "We are at this stage confident that the changes seen on PET scanning are consistent in location and density with CTE."

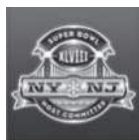
Players involved requested their results "along with the best interpretation of what the findings represent," Bailes said. "Many individuals desire to know if they are predisposed or confirmed to have abnormalities so that they can take whatever steps possible to mitigate or reduce the long-term detrimental effects."

DeLamielleure said based on his test results, the researchers recommended a healthy diet and supplements including fish oil.

Many retired football players are likely interested in having their brains tested, guys like the Hall of Famers DeLamielleure gets together with sometimes for conversations that often turns to symptoms.

"You talk privately, 'How do you feel? Do you get depressed? Yeah, I get depressed for no reason,'" he said. "Or you snap, just get upset for no reason at all."

Super Bowl megastars, All-Pros—and everyone else



JERSEY CITY, N.J.

(AP)—The names are hardly as familiar as

Peyton Manning and Richard Sherman. Yet, for all the megastars and All-Pros in this Super Bowl, there are guys like Jermaine Kearse and Paris Lenon.

Like Michael Robinson and Terrance Knighton. Malcolm Smith and Manny Ramirez.

Players who have gone from pretty much nowhere on the NFL landscape to the doorstep of a championship.

Perhaps no one is more grateful for the opportunity to grab a ring than these men. Some are veterans who fit the term journeymen. Some are youngsters who went in late rounds of the draft—or were ignored altogether.

All recognize they will play some sort of role in Sunday's championship game. Some might even sneak into a starring part, the way running back Tim Smith did in 1987 or cornerback Larry Brown did in 1996.

"You never know who it might be," said Knighton, the massive defensive tackle coming off a sensational AFC championship game performance.

Knighton could be the poster child for players who graduate

from the depths of the NFL—"I did my four years in Jacksonville," he said—to the top of the pro football ladder. He's been practically unblockable in the last few weeks, rising from obscurity to recognizability as a leader of an improving defense.

"Well I think that's naturally going to happen when you're in the middle of the defense and you're the anchor of the defense," the 335-pound Knighton said. "I feel like I'm a natural leader; I think wherever I am, people just gravitate towards me, and with that it requires a responsibility to help other guys and bring them along."

Coach John Fox praises the work ethic of Knighton, who was buried deep on the depth chart in training camp after being signed as a free agent away from the Jaguars.

"I'll always put it on players," Fox said of Knighton's emergence from a who's-he-to-a-watch-out-for-him performer. "As a coach, we spend a lot of time trying to define players. Basically, our approach is, 'Don't let us define you. You are going to be held accountable. It is going to be based on your performance, where you are on the depth chart, how much you are going to play. All of those things, you earn or

don't earn."

"Really, everything Terrance has done, he did (himself)."

Ditto for Seattle's Kearse, who played at the University of Washington but went undrafted in 2012. He made all of three catches that season after catching on with the Seahawks, and his job was anything but secure when Percy Harvin was acquired in a trade, and with Sidney Rice, Golden Tate and Doug Baldwin in the receiving corps for 2013.

All Kearse did was go from afterthought to touchdown threat, and his 35-yard catch for the winning score against San Francisco keyed Seattle's NFC title win.

Some credit Kearse undergoing Lasik eye surgery last winter with his becoming a force, but coach Pete Carroll can't confirm that. He can confirm that Kearse's importance has steadily risen this season.

"I don't know for a fact that it changed things, but it sure seems like it did," Carroll said of the surgery. "He has great athleticism, great hand-eye coordination, but he has been over the top since he came back from that. So, subjectively I would say that it had an impact, but he was good anyway."

"He has been extraordinary for us in so many ways, but it

seems like it gave him confidence. I don't know what the difference was, but he's better because of it."

Broncos linebacker Lenon's confidence had to be waning at various points in his 12-year career. He was on the 0-16 Lions of 2008, eight years after he was not selected in the draft. He was cut by Carolina in 2000, worked for the post office and then wound up in the XFL - if anybody remembers that short-lived league.

Yet here he is, a backup to middle linebacker Wesley Woodyard who gets snaps in the regular defense, and plays some special teams.

Lenon learned a lot from all that losing with the Lions. By applying those lessons, well, he's managed another half-decade in the NFL.

"When you're in a situation like that, you have a certain amount of guys that pack it in," Lenon said. "That's difficult for me, because I'm not that type of person. I'm going to compete until the end. That's the most difficult part of being in a situation like that."

"Now, it's a complete reversal."

And a great place to be after you've been mired in the other side.

SEDA Bud Light Dart League Winners

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Members of the SOS Mixblood Shooters I pose with their championship trophies in the A division of the 2013 SEDA Bud Light Dart League during the awards ceremony held last Sunday at Charley's Cabaret.



Players of Fanihi division champion Sand juvy Zyndikato pose for a group photo.



Players of Flame Tree champion Oceanside Kyodai pose with their trophies.



Members of Ladies division first placer Jokers Hottie Yuppies show their trophies.



Jokers Destroyers players smile for the camera after getting the Masters division first place trophies.



Players of Tuesday B winner SOS Mixblood Shooters pose with their trophies.



Sand Juvy Outlawz players receive the championship trophies in the Bud Light Cup A division.



Sand Juvy Navy Hill 4 Fun players show their Bud Light Cup Tuesday B championship trophies.



Naked Fish Na'Gupu players show their championship trophies in the Bud Light Cup Flame Tree B division.



Jonny's Mixed Nutz players pose with their Bud Light Cup trophies.



Durant does it again as Thunder rally past Hawks
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Saipan Tribune Sports



Ex-players fear dementia based on unproven tests
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28 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2014

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Mami, Charlie rule Coffee Trail Run



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A rain-soaked Charlie Sendin is a few meters away from completing last Saturday's 7th Annual Coffee Trail Run at the American Memorial Park.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mamiko Oshima-Berger nears the finish line of last Saturday's 7th Annual Coffee Trail Run at the American Memorial Park.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Charlie Sendin and Mamiko Oshima-Berger conquered the longer and rain-soaked course of the 7th Annual Marianas Coffee Trail Run held last Saturday.

Sendin, who debuted in the annual tournament last year and finished second in the 10-kilometer race, this time took the 20K challenge and made an impressive showing, placing first out of the 39 runners. The 32-year-old triathlete completed the run, which started and ended at the American Memorial Park and brought participants to coffee plantations in Navy Hill and some XTERRA Saipan Championship trails leading up to Mt. Tapochao, in 1:48:24 after crossing the finish line drenched in water, as heavy rains poured all throughout the race.

"It was tough, as the course

was longer and slippery. I initially thought it was only 15K, just like last year," said Sendin, who caught up with erstwhile leader Peter Prestley down Mt. Tapochao along the area where ATV bikes pass through.

Prestley ended up sliding to third, as Jesse James also slipped past him. James clocked in at 1:50:52 in his Coffee Trail debut, about three minutes ahead of Prestley's 1:53:43.

Oshima-Berger missed finishing the race under two hours, but her 2:13:33 still topped the women's field for her fourth win in the annual competition. The veteran runner ruled two

See MAMI on Page 26



USS McCampbell nips CNMI pool



USS MCCAMPBELL

A USS *McCampbell* player goes up for a reverse layup against the CNMI's Gabriel White, left, and Ezra Caro, during the first quarter of their exhibition game last Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The USS *McCampbell* survived the CNMI men's developmental team, 58-55, in an exhibition game at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Thursday.

The visiting Hellcats eked out the 3-point win after the CNMI

players, who are trying out for slots on the team that will represent the Commonwealth in the 2014 Micronesian Games in Pohnpei, failed to connect on a game-tying triple in the closing seconds of the tight match.

According to Gabriel White, who was the team

See USS on Page 26

Brewers wallop Fielders in SBL opener



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Brewers huddle in this file photo taken during Game 4 of their title series against the Fielders in the 2013 Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2014 Saipan Baseball League kicked off last Friday with the Brewers pounding the Fielders, 22-2, in a rematch of last year's finals at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Brewers, who defeated the Fielders in last season's best-of-five championship series, 3-1, allowed the latter to score only in the second inning and gave up only three hits to secure the victory via mercy rule three innings early.

The Fielders got the two runs at the bottom of the sixth inning with Jimmy Brel blasting a single and bringing home Joe Palacios and Khobby Kaipat. When Brel made the two-run

See BREWERS on Page 26

